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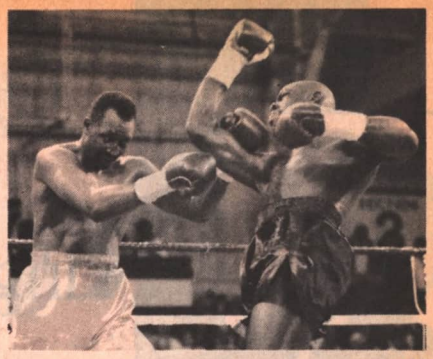

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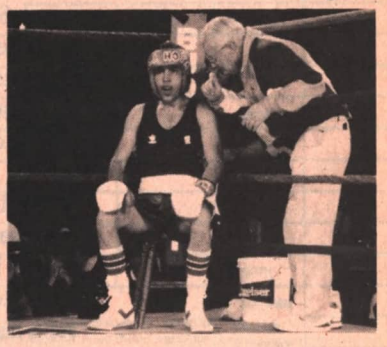

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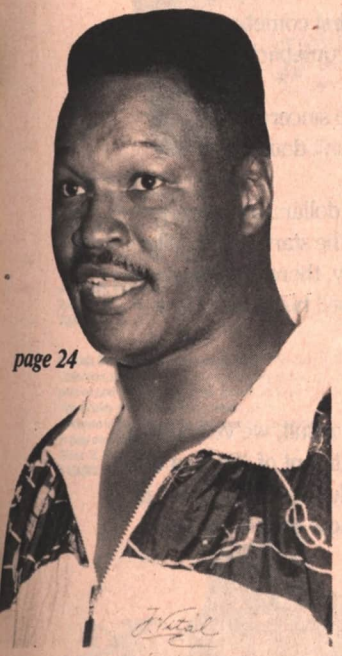

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Cover Photos: Holyfield-Holmes By Bill Apter; Foreman-Stewart By Marc Morrison Centerfold By Stanley Weston

Ringside

It's the spring of 1992. Boom Boom Mancini just got busted up by Greg Haugen. Michael Spinks is plotting his fistic future. Eusebio Pedroza's put together a winning streak. Bobby Czyz is fighting on TV. A few weeks ago, Danny Lopez got his feathers ruffled in Southern California. And this issue of *The Ring* is dominated by George Foreman and Larry Holmes.

What year did I say it was?

I suppose you want an explanation for the recent rash of comebacks. It's not the nostalgia craze. Nor is it a lack of superstar appeal among today's young champions. Quite simply, a fighter spends his first career establishing a name, and his second career selling it.

A couple of months ago, Ray Mancini, the actor, performed in an Off-Off Broadway play in Greenwich Village. His six-week salary was applause. On April 3, Ray Mancini, the fighter, performed against Haugen. His one-night purse was $450,000.

This is hardly a new phenomenon. The modern era is replete with financially motivated comebacks. A former champion almost always returns to the ring, whether he needs the money or can't resist it. The bigger the star, the more likely he'll be back. Two past examples: Joe Louis earned $100,000 for his first comeback bout; Henry Armstrong made about $500,000 during his four-year comeback. Their games were gone, but their names hadn't changed.

Foreman, Holmes, and today's other comebackers sound so sincere when they explain that their sole desire is to win back the world title. I don't doubt that they crave their former glory. But not enough to fight for free.

Like most everything else, boxing is most often a matter of dollars, and rarely sense. Some comebacks, like Lopez', seemed ridiculous from the start. Others, like any one of Sugar Ray Leonard's, seemed inevitable. Ultimately, there are two deciding factors: the fighter and the fans. How well can the fighter sell his name? How much, and how often, are the fans willing to pay for it?

You can't get simpler than that.

***

The boxing memorabilia craze is hotter than ever, and as a result, we've added a new feature to *The Ring*. On page 71, you'll find the first installment of "Boxing Collector's Notebook," which will run every other month. Our columnist, Don Scott, is the editor of *Boxing Collector's News*, a monthly publication now in its fourth year. He is also featured in *Sports Collectors Digest*.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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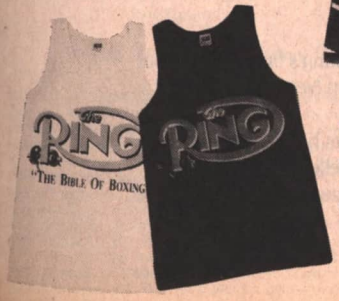

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Come Out Writing

Duran vs. Javier Ayala in March 1973

EXPERTS? HAH!

After reading the "Battle Of The Legends" between Julio Cesar Chavez and Roberto Duran (May 1992), I thought that the opinions of Emanuel Steward and Alex Wallau should have been entitled THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

Mr. Steward, I respect you greatly, but really, Chavez over Duran?

Mr. Wallau, you're a great boxing analyst, but Chavez lasting 15 rounds with Duran?

As a lightweight, Duran was nearly unbeatable, defeating Ken Buchanan, Saoul Mamby, and Esteban DeJesus, who was, when he wanted to be, a better fighter than Chavez. Chavez, on the other hand, has feasted on clubfighters, and was lucky to beat the light-hitting Meldrick Taylor. I'd rate Chavez with Carlos Palomino, no higher.

KURTIS C. WOLF
Glendale, AZ

I enjoyed your matchup between Duran and Chavez. Emanuel Steward's comments, however, almost ruined my enjoyment. Duran was faster, stronger, hit harder, and was better defensively than Chavez. I can't imagine Chavez even competing with Sugar Ray Leonard. I also shudder to think what would happen if Iran Barkley or Marvin Hagler hit Chavez.

Chavez is without question a great fighter, but Duran is one of the all-time greats.

PHILIP CALLAHAN
Burlington, VT

Tyson with lawyer Vincent Fuller

TYSON'S TIME

The sentence that Mike Tyson received was a joke! A few years back, Tony Ayala Jr. was given 35 years for the same crime. And don't tell me about different state laws. Rape is rape, no matter where it occurs.

Remember my words: Tyson wins back the title in three years. I can only hope that when Don King presents "the new Mike Tyson," no one will show up.

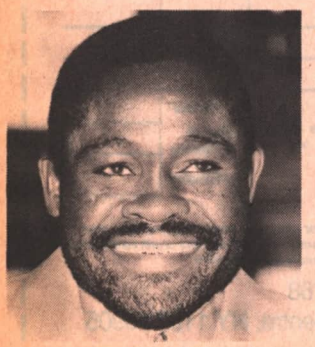
WALTER E. MAGNOLIA
Holbrook, NY

Editor's Note: For the record, in April 1983, Tony Ayala was convicted of aggravated sexual assault, terroristic threats, burglary, and two counts of unlawful possession of a knife. Tyson was found guilty on three counts of rape and deviate conduct.

THE LONGEST REIGNS

After looking over *The Ring Record Book And Boxing Encyclopedia*, I took exception to your listing of the longest title reigns in boxing history (May 1992). Benny Leonard, and not Roberto Duran, reigned longest at lightweight—seven years, seven months. Johnny Kilbane, and not Eusebio Pedroza, reigned longest at featherweight—11 years, three months.

GUNTER TRAUTNER
Krefeld, Germany



Azumah: A helluva champ

HAIL AZUMAH!

Now that Azumah Nelson has destroyed Jeff Fenech, I expect boxing's fans to come out of the woodwork and proclaim his greatness. Where were you when Nelson *lost* the first fight?

Being a Fenech fan, I was crushed by the result. But better fighters have failed in attempts to win their fourth titles. (Henry Armstrong and Alexis Arguello, for example.)

You have nothing to be ashamed of, Jeff. And congratulations, Azumah. You're a hell of a champion.

MARK HOWELL
Ottawa, Ontario ■

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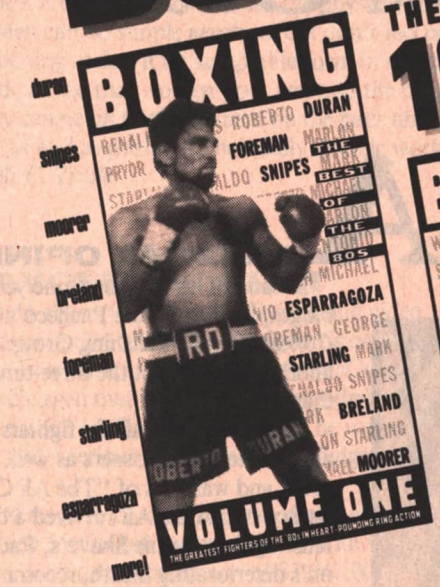

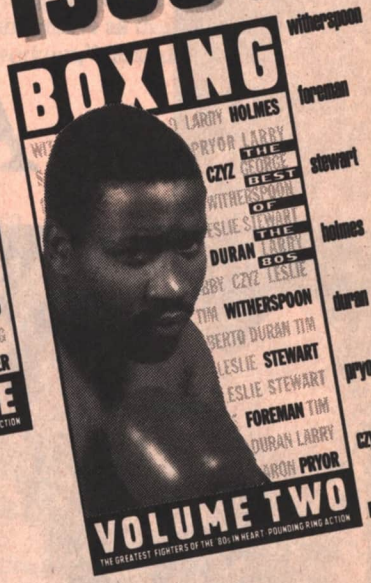

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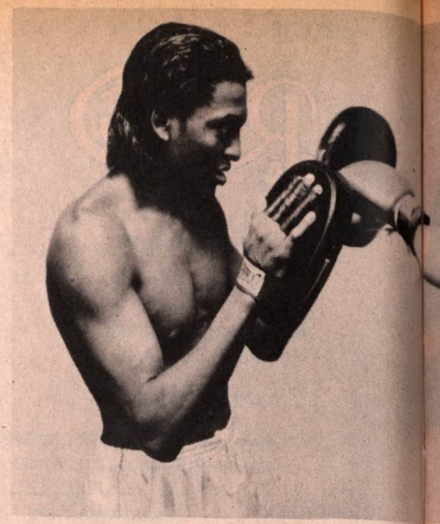
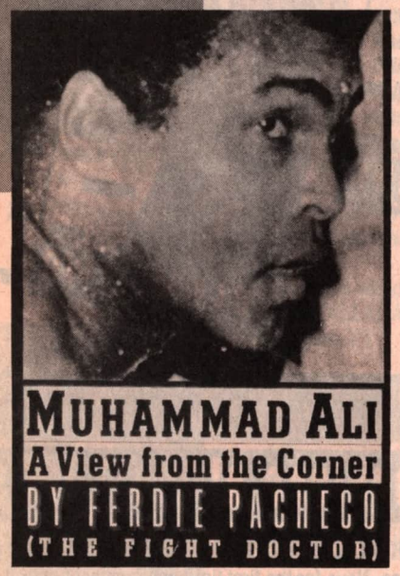


Olajide and Dr. Daniel Hamner

A MEDICAL OPINION



Ferdie's look at "The Greatest"

Because it hit the stores one year after Thomas Hauser's extensive biography, Dr. Ferdie Pacheco's *Muhammad Ali, A View From The Corner* (Carol Publishing Group, $19.95), might be viewed as just another book about the three-time heavyweight champion. It is more than that.

Pacheco treated all the fighters in Angelo Dundee's boxing stable, and worked their corners as well. "The Fight Doctor" first met Ali in 1960, and was part of "The Ali Circus," as he calls it, until his voluntary exit. After Ali survived a demanding September 1977 title defense against Earnie Shavers, Pacheco, concerned about the champion's deteriorating health, recommended that he retire. Ali elected to fight on, and Pacheco walked.

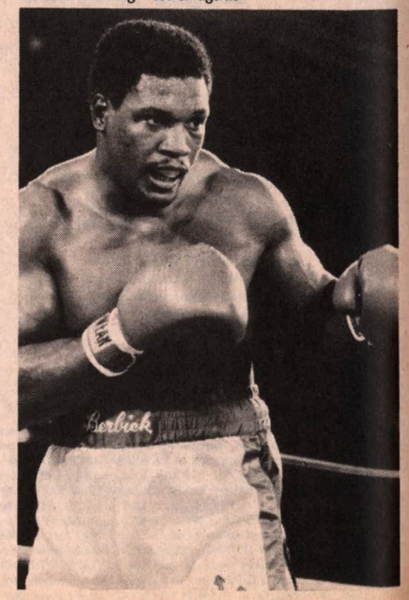
His book offers a unique perspective on the most famous athlete of all-time, and includes an in-depth look at Ali's personal side. Blunt and opinionated, Pacheco recounts the crazy and sometimes shocking antics of Ali and his entourage over "The Greatest's" 20-year career.

Compared to Hauser's 544-page oral biography, Pacheco's memoir reads like Cliffs Notes. But entertaining Cliffs Notes just the same.

—Ed Maloney

TREVORMANIA

Berbick: Battling "secret agents"



It seems Trevor Berbick never really recovered from that brutal second-round knockout registered by Mike Tyson in 1986. Ever since, his professional and personal lives have been in shambles. The latest: A circuit judge in Miami, where Berbick was found guilty of sexual battery, ordered the former heavyweight champion to undergo mental testing. Perhaps Tyson did more damage than initially thought.

In February, Berbick was convicted of raping a woman employed as a babysitter for his family. At the sentencing, Berbick lost control of his emotions during a 45-minute speech that was puncuated by frantic arm-waving and high-pitched proclamations of his innocence. Berbick said "secret agents" had manipulated his accuser to press charges, and "this situation, all it amounts to is about money."

Circuit judge Thomas Wilson postponed the sentencing and ordered Berbick to be examined by two psychiatrists.

—Robert Cassidy

BOXAEROBICS IS HERE

Former middleweight contender Michael Olajide has developed an exercise program under the medical supervision of Dr. Daniel Hamner, a specialist in sports and rehabilitation medicine. It is called "Boxaerobics," and it combines aerobics with a complete boxing workout.

Boxaerobics features hand-padding and hand-wrapping techniques, followed by a basic workout that includes throwing combinations, heavybag punching, and upper body movement. According to Olajide and Hamner, the program provides a well-balanced and safe workout for even sedentary adults who are undergoing physical rehabilitation or just want to get in shape.

"Fitness is the harmony between the physical and the mental," Olajide said. "Men can do simple aerobics, but don't feel comfortable. The addition of boxing makes it an acceptable form of exercise."

Olajide added that women, too, will find the program to their liking.

"They can get in there and beat on the pads and relieve all their built-up tension, as well as getting in their daily aerobic workout," he said.

—Joseph C. Tintle

McGUIGAN IS KAYOED IN COURT

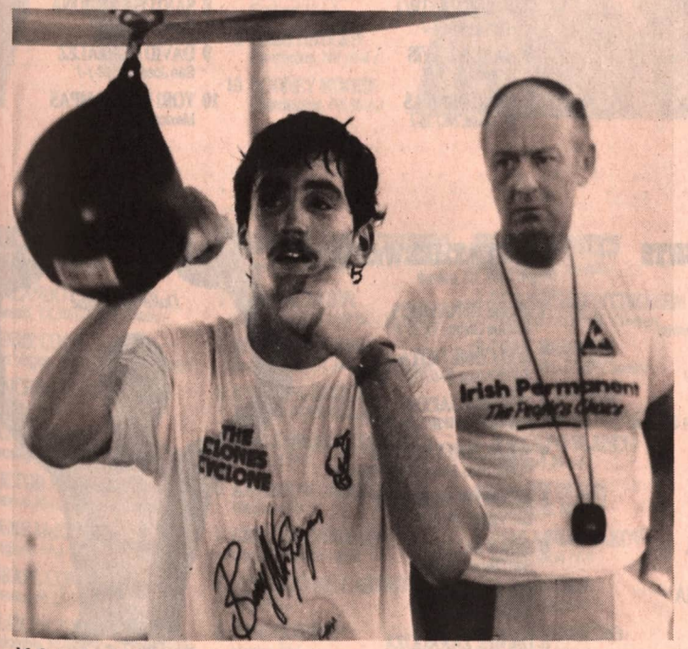
Former WBA featherweight champion Barry McGuigan and video company Channel 5 were found guilty of libeling the fighter's one-time manager, Barney Eastwood, in a video entitled *The Barry McGuigan Story*. In the video, McGuigan charged that Eastwood had him defend his title against Steve Cruz in 1986, despite McGuigan's claim that he was suffering from a perforated eardrum and a serious ankle injury. McGuigan lost the title by 15-round decision.

A jury in Northern Ireland ruled in favor of Eastwood and awarded him damages of $750,000, of which McGuigan must pay half. With various legal fees tossed in, McGuigan owes a staggering sum of $1,047,000.

After the record settlement was announced, a disbelieving McGuigan said, "I'm amazed, absolutely amazed."

Countered Eastwood: "Truth was on my side. I am glad that justice has prevailed . . . I don't feel anything for Barry McGuigan now."

—Joseph C. Tintle



McGuigan and Eastwood when they were a team

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

In late-March, flyweight champion **Alli Galvez** began a hunger strike to protest a campaign to ban boxing in his native Chile. "I'm doing this to defend my right to work," he explained . . . In April, former USBA 115-pound champion **Johnny Tapia**, who has been plagued by drug problems over the last couple of years, tested positive for cocaine. On the same day, he was arrested and charged with having bribed a witness in a homicide prosecution against his cousin. Tapia hasn't fought since October 1990 . . . **Lennox Lewis** has fired trainer **John Davenport** and replaced him with **Pepe Correa.** ■

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended April 15, 1992

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Atlanta, GA *27-0 (World Champ)*

2 **RIDDICK BOWE**
Brooklyn, NY *29-0*

3 **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
Canada *26-3-1*

4 **LARRY HOLMES**
Easton, PA *54-3*

5 **TIM WITHERSPOON**
Philadelphia, PA *37-3*

6 **TONY TUCKER**
Beverly Hills, CA *42-1*

7 **GEORGE FOREMAN**
Marshall, TX *71-3*

8 **LENNOX LEWIS**
England *19-0*

9 **MICHAEL MOORER**
Detroit, MI *28-0*

10 **RAY MERCER**
Newark, NJ *18-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Virgin Islands *44-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **JAMES TONEY**
Ann Arbor, MI *30-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **MIKE McCALLUM**
Brooklyn, NY *42-1-1*

4 **SUMBU KALAMBAY**
Italy *53-5-1*

5 **ROY JONES**
Pensacola, FL *17-0*

6 **STEVE COLLINS**
Brockton, MA *21-1*

7 **REGGIE JOHNSON**
Houston, TX *30-2-1*

8 **BERNARD HOPKINS**
Philadelphia, PA *17-1*

9 **LAMAR PARKS**
Greeneville, SC *20-0*

10 **GERALD McCLELLAN**
Detroit, MI *24-2*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 **TERRY NORRIS**
Mission Valley, CA *31-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
Italy *54-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 **VINNY PAZIENZA**
Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
Tucson, AZ *24-0*

5 **VERNON PHILLIPS**
New York, NY *15-5*

6 **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
Argentina *33-1*

7 **GILBERT DELE**
France *32-1-1*

8 **JORGE CASTRO**
Argentina *64-3-2*

9 **AARON DAVIS**
Bronx, NY *33-1*

10 **CARL DANIELS**
St. Louis, MO *26-1*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *29-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY *55-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *34-2*

4 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *33-2 (IBF Champ)*

5 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *41-2-2*

6 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfield, NJ *35-3*

7 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *25-0*

8 **SANTOS CARDONA**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

9 **DAVID GONZALEZ**
San Jose, CA *28-1-1*

10 **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico *38-0*

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 **PAUL HODKINSON**
England *19-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **MANUEL MEDINA**
Mexico *41-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YUNG KYUN PARK**
South Korea *20-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **KEVIN KELLEY**
Flushing, NY *27-0*

5 **MAURIZIO STECCA**
Italy *45-1*

6 **JESSE JAMES LELIA**
San Antonio, TX *22-0-1*

7 **MARCOS VILLASANA**
Mexico *54-8-2*

8 **TOM JOHNSON**
Detroit, MI *28-2-1*

9 **TROY DORSEY**
Mansfield, TX *12-5-4*

10 **LOUIE ESPINOZA**
Phoenix, AZ *44-5-2*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 **JESSE BENAVIDES**
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1-1*

2 **WELCOME NCITA**
South Africa *30-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **THIERRY JACOB**
France *38-3 (WBC Champ)*

4 **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
Puerto Rico *32-6-3 (WBA Champ)*

5 **KENNEDY MCKINNEY**
Las Vegas, NV *21-0-1*

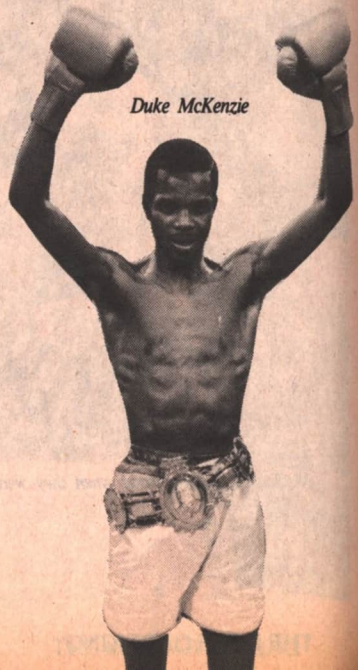
6 **JESUS SALUD**
San Diego, CA *40-4*

7 **PEDRO DECIMA**
Argentina *28-3*

8 **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
Mexico *44-6-1*

9 **TRACY PATTERSON**
Highland, NY *44-2*

10 **LUIS MENDOZA**
Colombia *32-3-2*



Duke McKenzie

Tony Tucker

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *39-5 (WBA Champ)*

2 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *13-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *34-2 (WBC Champ)*

4 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

5 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *32-3*

6 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1-1*

7 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *20-1*

8 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *19-2-1*

9 **AKIM TAFER**
France *13-3*

10 **DWIGHT QAWI**
Lindenwold, NJ *38-8-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *32-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

2 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-4-1*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Australia *31-1*

4 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *31-2*

5 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *21-1 (WBC Champ)*

6 **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
Germany *32-0*

7 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *15-1*

8 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *30-1*

9 **HENRY MASKE**
Germany *16-0*

10 **GUY WATERS**
Australia *14-2-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *29-7 (IBF Champ)*

2 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *16-2 (WBA Champ)*

3 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *37-1*

4 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *30-0*

5 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *19-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **NIGEL BENN**
England *31-2*

7 **TIM LITTLES**
Flint, MI *18-0*

8 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *47-3*

9 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

10 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *19-2-1*

Glenwood Brown

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *80-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *28-1*

3 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *27-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **AKINOBU HIRANAKA**
Japan *20-1 (WBA Champ)*

5 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *48-7-2*

6 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *24-1*

7 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

8 **PAT BARRETT**
England *32-1-1*

9 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *30-4-1*

10 **RODNEY MOORE**
Philadelphia, PA *30-6-2*

Hector Camacho

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *32-17-3*

2 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *40-4-4*

3 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *27-1*

4 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *38-4*

5 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *27-0*

6 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *17-1*

7 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *31-1*

8 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *27-0*

9 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *26-0*

10 **FRANKIE MITCHELL**
Philadelphia, PA *28-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *34-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *25-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *26-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *38-3-1*

5 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-1-1*

6 **EUGENE SPEED**
Palmer Park, MD *22-0*

7 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *29-1*

8 **CALVIN GROVE**
Philadelphia, PA *41-4*

9 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *28-2-1*

10 **YUJI WATANABE**
Japan *7-0*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX *30-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 **EDDIE COOK**
Las Vegas, NV *17-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
Japan *7-0-1*

4 **JUNIOR JONES**
Brooklyn, NY *22-0*

5 **VICTOR RABANALES**
Mexico *30-10-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **DUKE McKENZIE**
England *31-2*

7 **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
Venezuela *35-3-1*

8 **ELIECER JULIO**
Colombia *20-0*

9 **CECILIO ESPINO**
Los Angeles, CA *21-2*

10 **JAVIER LEON**
Mexico *37-4-2*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *19-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *18-0 (WBA Champ)*

4 **THALERNSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *37-3*

5 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *46-8-1*

6 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

7 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *22-5-3*

8 **JOSE QUIRINO**
Mexico *28-6*

9 **GERRY PENALOSA**
Phlippines *20-0-1*

10 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-2*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *17-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *25-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *22-0*

6 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Soviet Union *11-0*

7 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *26-0*

8 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *27-3-1*

9 **PAT CLINTON**
Scotland *19-1*

10 **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
Mexico *18-2-1*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *20-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-1*

3 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *22-0 (IBF Champ)*

4 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *32-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *32-3-3*

6 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

7 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

8 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *16-1*

9 **KWANG SUN KIM**
South Korea *5-0*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTAS**
Panama *22-0*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Junior Welterweight

3 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Welterweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

6 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

7 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

8 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

9 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Middleweight

10 **SUNG KIL MOON**
Junior Bantamweight

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Oct. 1983: (104-Page Special)—Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Who's who?, Jose Sulaiman, Billy McNeece, Marty Servo, Milton McCory, Collin Jones.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!' Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror In The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Bill Costello, nine gold medals, Don King, Davey Moore, memorabilia.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Nov. 1986: Mike Tyson: History In The Making. Plus: Tyson-Berbick preview, Spinks, Paul Gonzales, Bobby Czyz, Tyson-Ratliff, McCallum-Jackson.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: All Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

July 1988: Special Tyson-Spinks Preview Issue. Plus: Donald Trump interview, Honeyghan-Vaca II, Foreman-Qawi, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special. Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough! Plus: Archie Moore, Moore-Marciano (color), Grudge Wars, Kid Berg, Ike Williams-Alexis Arguello.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

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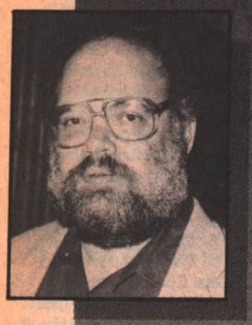


Katz Scan

By Michael Katz

WHEN TO SAY WHEN

They've been stopping time for so long now that they get frozen there, and you worry what they'll be like after the inevitable thaw. It happened to George Foreman in the fourth round against Alex Stewart.

He just stopped in the middle of the ring, dropped his hands to his hips, and looked down at his longtime publicist, Bill Caplan.

Caplan had seen the old man age in the round before.

"The jab, the left jab, throw the left jab," he pleaded.

Foreman, hands on hips, looked at Caplan, and with the impeccable timing of boxing's best standup comic, quipped, "You're telling him what I'm going to do."

Instead of a rim shot, the 27-year-old Stewart landed a hard left to Foreman's face. Sometimes, this revival stuff isn't so funny.

In resurrecting Stewart's career, and signaling that the end of his own was near, Rev. George gave a gutty—you can take that any way you want—performance in one of the best heavyweight battles in years. He will not exit crying.

Big George looked like Old George during his narrow decision victory over Alex Stewart in April. At 43, will he fight on?

Take his postfight remarks to Caplan in the dressing room.

"I'm gonna double your salary."

"What???"

"Well, if you're gonna be my trainer as well as my publicist, I'll have to pay you two salaries," said Foreman, demonstrating anew just why he has gained such a stronghold on the American public.

There he was, his face that of an obscene gargoyle, his right cheek puffed up greater than Don King's ego, his nose even more crooked, and slits where there used to be eyes. He was bleeding from the nose and mouth, and cuts around the eyes. So he left the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, returned to his hotel suite, and began eating sandwiches.

Grilled cheese. A BLT. Tuna fish. And, of course, the perfunctory cheeseburger.

Caplan wanted to know about dessert.

"C'mon, Bill, you know I'm not a dessert man."

No man is a dessert. Foreman is not alone on the comeback trail that throughout boxing history has been a well-beaten path to ruin. If George wants to chew on something, let him ponder the damage being done to the gray matter, and how it might affect his sermons in five, 10, 20 years. Will all this seem so funny then?

But I am not here to preach, certainly not to Rev. George. He understands exactly what he is doing. I understand that he has maybe two more fights, maybe one, very possibly even none. George isn't going to take any more $5-million "tuneups," not after the beating Stewart gave him, even as promoter Bob Arum talks about a fight with Tommy "The Duke" Morrison. It's either Riddick Bowe, for at least $15-million, or wait to see how another old codger, Larry Holmes, does against Evander Holyfield.

It is George's expert opinion that Holmes "has a shot" against Holyfield, "but he won't fight the right fight." According to Foreman, Larry has to hurt Holyfield and then pressure him constantly—the antithesis of what he did to Ray Mercer. Larry may

not be willing or able to pressure a much faster opponent at this stage, but he is no dummy. The Bob Arum sales pitch that Holmes has a Ph.D in pugilism is not mere hype. No one is better at analyzing or dissecting an opponent. Larry must know what he has to do, and I must give him at least a chance against a smaller man who:

- Is not that difficult to hit. Seamus McDonagh hit Holyfield twice *on the way down.*
- May have too many muscles for his own good. At the end of their 12-round battle, Foreman seemed fresher than the younger champion.
- Has been talking about retiring. A man with one foot out of the ring cannot be trusted.

Foreman must be rooting for Holmes, though he is the only one I know who has expressed doubts of his getting a title shot even if Larry scores the upset. He knows that Holmes always considered himself lucky that he didn't have to face Big George the first go-round. But he should also know that Holmes faced a lot of men he didn't want to (see Roy Williams and Earnie Shavers), as long as the price was right. And a preacher-grandfather championship bout would break all records.

But if Holyfield wins, Foreman might have to return to his pulpit. He talks about Bowe, but Bowe talks about everyone, and may be using Foreman as a bargaining tool with the Holyfield camp. Even if Foreman is ranked number-one in two organizations (the IBF now, and possibly the WBA later), Holyfield won't dare face another codger and bring down the public wrath. He has to fight a *real* opponent, either Razor Ruddock or Bowe, who is the WBC's mandatory challenger. That would leave George without a fight—and maybe none too soon.

He has uplifted the game, but his comeback has also had its dark side. Even Holmes admits his inspiration was Foreman. Where does it end? Where do we draw the lines?

Obviously, Foreman and Holmes have been successful because this is not a golden age of heavyweights. Take away Tyson—and they did—and there is no one without at least suspect flaws to frighten anyone away. So they all have come back. Some never went away, except for Tyson and Trevor Berbick, who could meet in a rematch of convicted rapists some year.

Since returning to the ring, Holmes, 42, has been all smiles. Foreman showed him the way, and now he's fighting for the undisputed world title.

There are enough former heavyweight champions around to change the outcome of an election in Montana. Michael Spinks, in turn inspired by Holmes' success, has been mulling the step back into the ring. Tony Tucker, Tony Tubbs, Michael Dokes, Mike Weaver, Greg Page, Bonecrusher Smith, and Tim Witherspoon never really left, despite repeated requests.

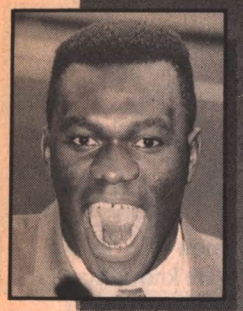
Some comebacks are sadder than others. Those are the ones forced by economic necessity. Leon Spinks has no money, so he vacillates between two-bit fights and two-bit rasslin' exhibitions. Billy Costello, a former WBC super lightweight champion, picked up the gloves again after getting laid off from his construction job. What choices do they have? Would we have them become stickup artists?

I do not like the idea of men fighting on and on. But it is not my call, nor do I believe it is the call of state, or, heaven forbid, federal commissions. All they can do is make sure the codgers are physically fit, with perhaps more stringent rules concerning the screening of opponents, on the grounds that punches affect old men more. But this is a free country—at least it was the last time I looked. Coal miners don't want to go into black-lung holes, but there is no law saying that they can't. All we can do is make the mines as safe as we can.

Boxing needs a pension plan, which could be financed by the monies now going to the wicked sanctioning bodies. Even then, what is to prevent a Roberto Duran from fighting when that is what he wants to do?

Praise, instead, the fighter who makes his money and gets out. Praise, indeed, James "Buster" Douglas, who should be a role model for all heavyweight champions.

And praise, too, the Reverend George Foreman, who brought fun back into the game. Pray that he gets out in time to enjoy his just desserts. But pray even harder for those who need it more. ■



New Faces

Herbie Hide

Heavyweight

By Glyn Leach

Photo By Marc Morris

Hide hooks Michael Richards

PRO RECORD

	1989	
Oct. 24	Lee Williams, London	KO 2
Nov. 5	Gary McCrory, London	KO 1
Dec. 19	Steve Osborne, London	KO 6
	1990	
June 27	Alek Penarski, London	KO 3
Sept. 5	Steve Lewsam, Brighton	KO 1
Sept. 26	Jonjo Greene, Manchester	KO 1
Oct. 17	Gus Mendes, London	KO 2
Nov. 18	Steve Lewsam, Birmingham	KO 1
	1991	
Jan. 1	Lennie Howard, Wisbech	KO 1
April 9	David Jules, London	KO 1
May 14	John Westgarth, London	KO 4
July 3	Michael Richards, Brentwood	KO 3
Oct. 15	Eddie Gonzales, Hamburg	KO 2
Oct. 29	Chris Jacobs, Cardiff	KO 1
	1992	
Jan. 21	Conroy Nelson, Norwich	KO 2
March 3	Percell Davis, Amsterdam	KO 1

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	16	16	0	0	16

It's hard for an English journalist, no matter how patriotic, to speak enthusiastically of the hopes of one of his countrymen in search of the world heavyweight title. But Herbie Hide, the unbeaten WBC International champion, is, at least, a little bit different.

After 16 fights, and 16 early nights, the 20-year-old prospect, known as "The Dancing Destroyer," is beginning to cause a stir on this side of the Atlantic. His manager, Barry Hearn, head of the powerful Matchroom organization, is so confident of Hide's ability that he's offered £500,000 ($850,000) to rival Mickey Duff for a showdown with the comebacking Frank Bruno, a seemingly unrefusable offer that has so far been refused. More on that later.

What's so different about Hide? It's his size, or lack of it. Born in Nigeria and raised in Norwich, Norfolk, Hide began his pro career as a cruiserweight just over two years ago and has been banging out the big boys with some abandon, despite his lack of pounds.

"When I become heavyweight champion of the world, all the other heavyweights are going to be criticized for being too big," says the super-confident Hide, who sneers at the bulking up of fighters such as Evander Holyfield. "I make my size work for me. I'm 6'2" and 205 pounds, and I don't want to be any bigger."

Hide feels that the big men of the division "haven't got that natural snap and speed" that he's got. "I try to do what they can't do, move like they can't," he says.

Hide certainly is not from the classic British/European heavyweight mold of predictable, upright (for a while, at least) plodders. And though it's early yet, his approach seems to be working. An elusive, mobile fighter, Hide's greatest asset is his speed, which, unhampered by the stiffness of movement that can come with weight training, sees him literally run rings around opponents before rendering them temporarily senseless.

With his perfect stoppage record, it's obvious that lack of size does not always equal lack of power. "Dancing Destroyer" is a label that fits him comfortably; he has yet to be extended beyond the sixth round.

"When I knock someone down, I want him to get up so I can knock him down again," Hide says with relish. "Smashing them down gives me a buzz. It's a feeling that I love."

Veteran heavyweight trialhorse Rocky Sekorski, brought in to spar with Hide in preparation for his WBC International title fight with Canada's Conroy Nelson, describes Hide as "dynamite in a small package."

"One solid punch from Herbie and a guy's on queer street," said Sekorski. "I've fought five former world champions, and the only person who hit me harder than Herbie was George Foreman."

Canadian champion Nelson, all 6'5" and 244 pounds of him, had gone the full 10 rounds with Razor Ruddock and lasted into the ninth with "Smokin' "

(Continued on page 66)

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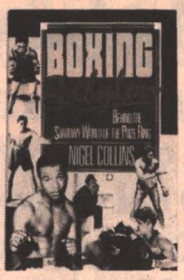

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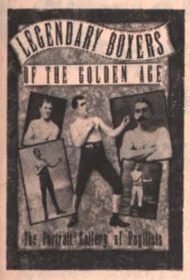

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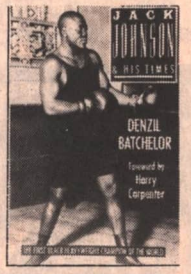

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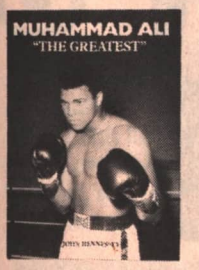

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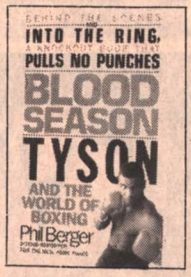

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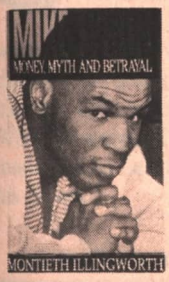

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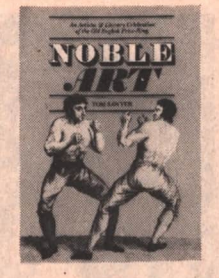

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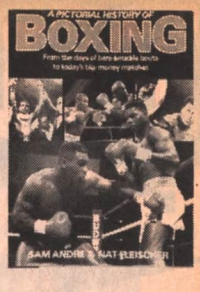

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1

The fighter on the floor is Sean O'Grady. Who put him there? Instead of showing you the kayo artist's face, we thought we'd offer his back. (No, we didn't draw on the photo.) Hint: In his next fight, he was knocked out by Alexis Arguello.

2

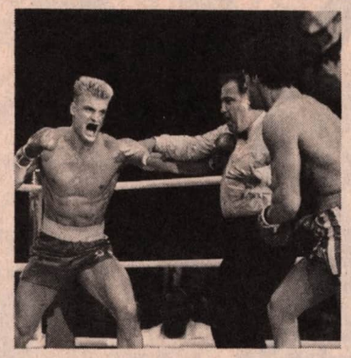
This is the first of our Muhammad Ali title fight victims. In his right hand is a heavy bag. In his left, a speed bag, for quick getaways. He was a difficult southpaw, if that's not redundant, and he troubled "The Greatest" until getting in trouble.

3

Try counting the cash, and keep in mind it was only a *bonus*. This heavyweight's best paydays are behind him; he recently fought in Las Vegas for $500.

4

Don't they believe in mouthpieces in Hollywood? This is the climactic fight scene in *Rocky IV*. The referee is Marty Denkin. Name Rocky Balboa's toothy opponent.

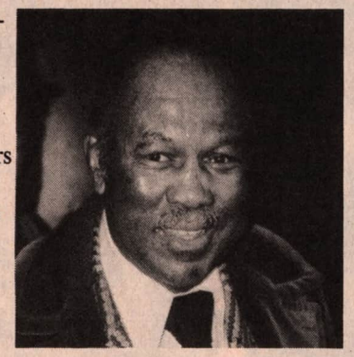


5

Ring announcer Jimmy Lennon's jacket tells you that this photo wasn't taken last month. The winning welterweight, a California favorite, was better than his record suggested, mostly because he fought when the top 10 included Cuevas, Benitez, Duran, Hearns, and Leonard.

6

A recent clubshow at the famed Blue Horizon brought out one of the greatest boxers in Philadelphia's fight history. This lightweight licked Lew Jenkins, Ike Williams, and Beau Jack, among others.

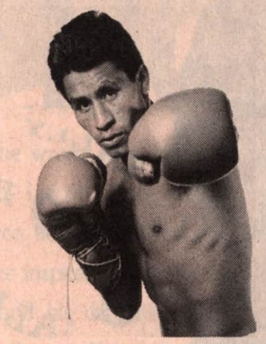


7

In the early-'80s, the junior lightweight division produced the best action bouts in the game. In May 1982, these two southpaws made war for the WBC title. On the right is Rolando Navarette. His conqueror had the best chin in boxing. Name him.

8

Sometimes it's hard to tell the fighters without a mustache. This former bantamweight champion won the title by dethroning his stablemate. One other thing: When he fought, he always made sure to tie the laces of his gloves.



9

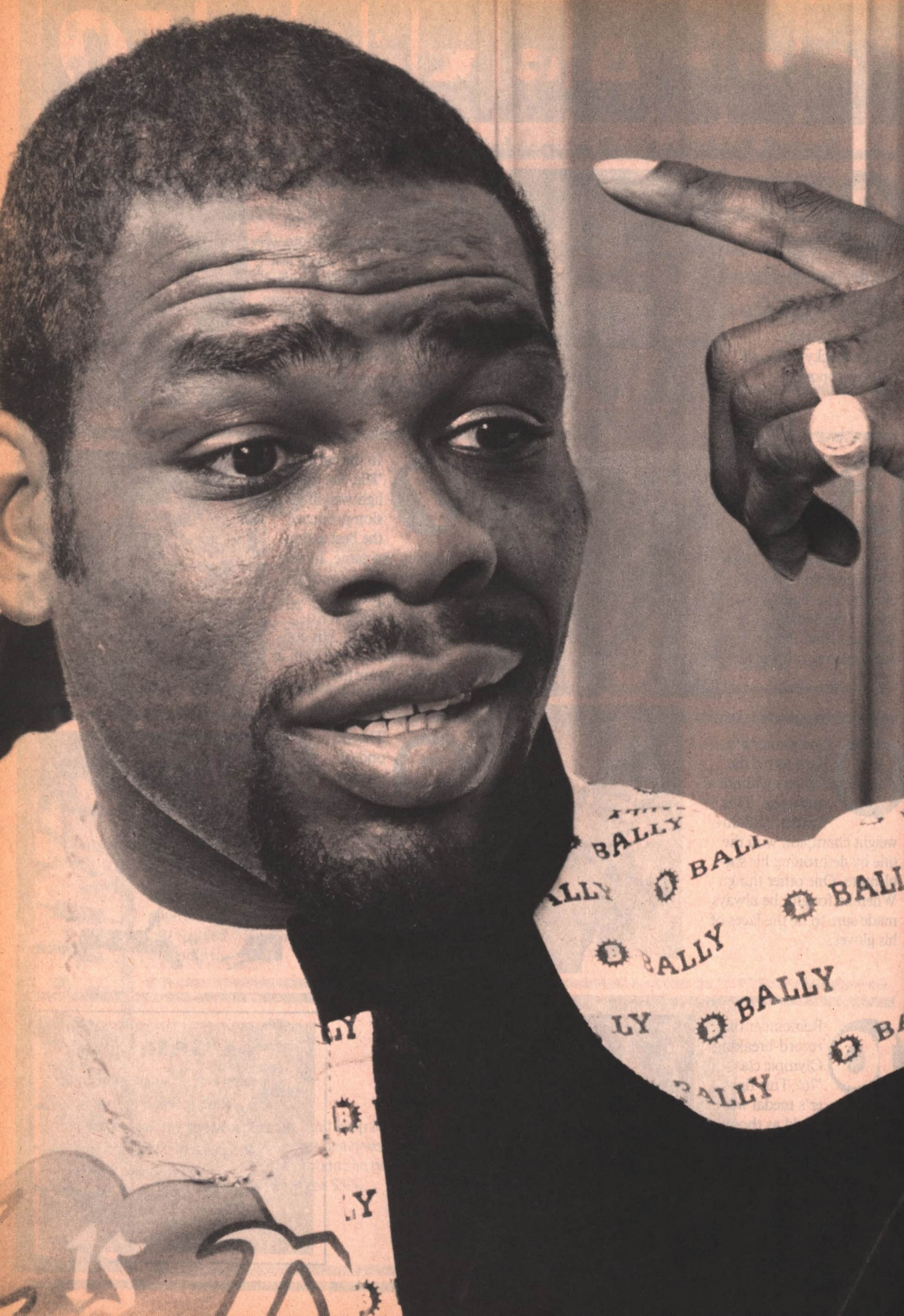
The second of our Muhammad Ali title fight victims. This heavyweight, being scoped by former British Empire champion Tommy Farr, also lost a title bout to Floyd Patterson.

10

Remember the record-breaking Olympic class of '76? This fighter's medal was every bit as gold as those won by Sugar Ray Leonard and Michael Spinks. Like his teammates, he, too, became a world champion in the pros. The only problem was that he really didn't like to fight.

ANSWERS:

1) Andy Ganigan;
2) Karl Mildenberger;
3) Michael Dokes; 4) Ivan Drago;
5) Pete Ranzany; 6) Bob Montgomery;
7) Bazooka Limon; 8) Lupe Pintor;
9) Brian London; 10) Leo Randolph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By Joseph C. Tintle

THE MIND GAMES OF Iran Barkley

Why He Keeps Winning

The moment before Iran "The Blade" Barkley stepped into the ring to fight Thomas Hearns, a squall of violence blew across his mind. Barkley's rage was so pure, in fact, that it carried him to victory over one of boxing's all-time greats.

"What I was feeling that night was the result of many emotions," he said. "I was filled with sadness, anger, frustration, and resentment from different times in my life. Then, suddenly, these emotions came together as one force, and it gave me a sense of crazy, enormous power you wouldn't believe."

Barkley added that he also drew strength from the spiritual presence of his father, Frank, and his brothers, Alfred and Frankie, all of whom died in recent years.

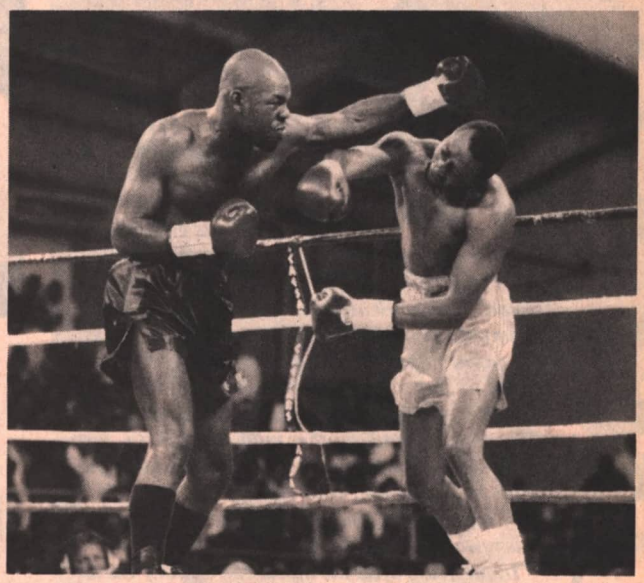
"They were all there," he said. "Then again, they always are. But don't get the wrong idea; it's not like I saw them. I never do. But I could sense their souls surrounding me like a force field, and I felt safe."

If Barkley needed further inspiration, he got it from his fiancee, Laura Smith, and his daughter, Mia, who were sitting ringside at the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion. It was for them, as much as for himself, that he was about to battle the "Hit Man." After 12 demanding rounds, Barkley captured the WBA light heavyweight title by split decision.

"I want so much for my family," said Barkley, who now lives in Hackensack, New Jersey. "I don't want them living in the projects [in South Bronx, New York] like I did. That's why I look at all my opponents as people who are trying to deny me a livelihood. And

(Continued on page 61)

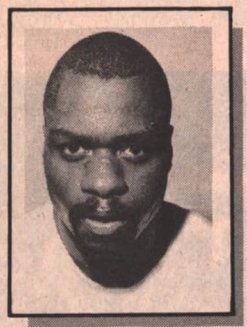
Barkley-Hearns II was a war, which is exactly the kind of fight "The Blade" always hopes for.



BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
"Hurricane" Carter

Paterson, New Jersey
Career: 1961-1966
27-12-1 with 19 kayos



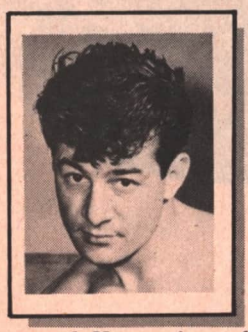
In the early-'60s, Carter had the potential to knock out any middleweight in the world. His career was short, but in six years of boxing, he built a lasting reputation by combining an intimidating physique with bonebreaking power. Among his victims: Florentino Fernandez and Emile Griffith, both of whom fell in one round, George Benton, and future heavyweight champion Jimmy Ellis. Carter had one crack at the world title, losing a unanimous 15-round decision to Joey Giardello in December 1964.

Carter was already past his prime when, in May 1967, he and another man, John Artis, were convicted of murdering a bartender and two patrons in a Paterson, New Jersey, bar. (In 1976, they were retried and again convicted.) Carter was released from jail in 1985.

In the years after his initial conviction, Carter became a **cause celebre.** *But those who saw his explosive displays of firepower will always remember him first as one of the most exciting performers of his era.*

Rocky Graziano

New York, New York
Career: 1942-1952
67-10-6 with 52 kayos

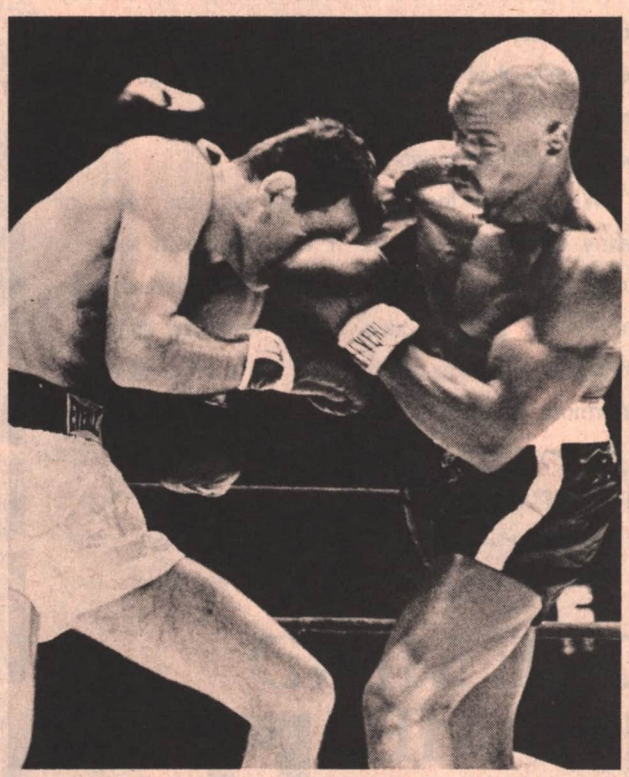


While it can be argued that Graziano was never more than a blown-up welterweight, he came to symbolize the guts and glory of the middleweight division. Possessing boxing's best right hand, but lacking the classic skills to accompany it, "The Rock" was carefully moved. He grew into a fan favorite and one of the biggest drawing cards in the game.

Graziano's three title fight shootouts with Tony Zale, the second of which earned him the world title (in July 1947), remain the standard by which all fistic grudges are judged. Graziano also challenged middleweight champion Sugar Ray Robinson, but was kayoed in April 1952. Five months later, he lost on points to Chuck Davey and retired at age 30.

Like Carter, Graziano remained in the spotlight long after his last kayo. He became a boxing goodwill ambassador and TV star, and, in 1956, was played by Paul Newman in the acclaimed biographical film **Somebody Up There Likes Me.**

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.

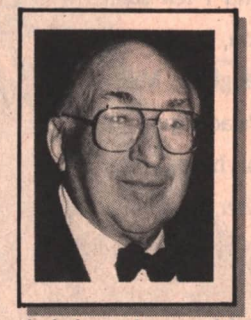


Carter's magnificently cut upper body was on display during his September 1963 points win over Farid Salim. Unlike most muscular fighters, Carter was a puncher.

HARRY MARKSON

Graziano and Carter were exalted clubfighters, and I mean that in the most complimentary way. They were world-class fighters, and they never were in bad fights. Both were very much crowd-pleasers, and both disdained pure boxing skills, opting instead to outpunch their opponents.

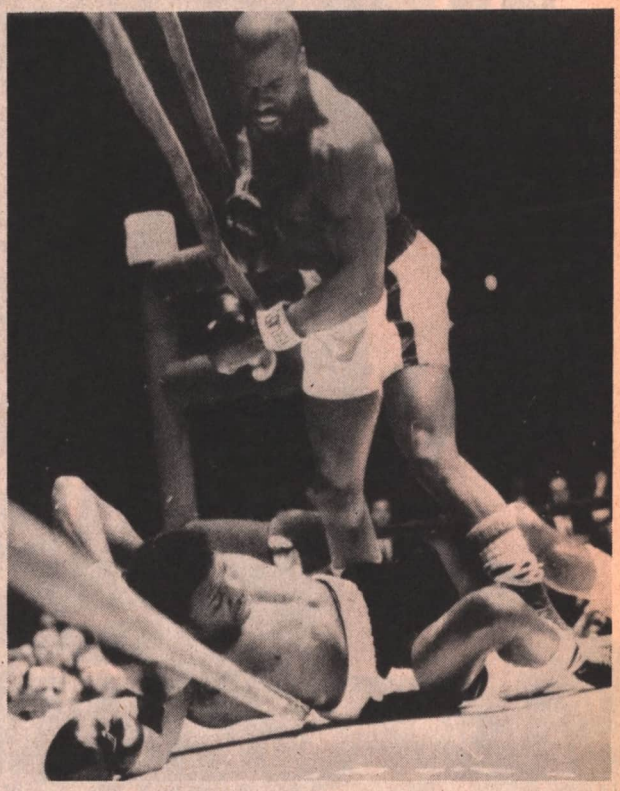
Carter was good, but his career as a top contender didn't last that long. He beat some good fighters, his most impressive bout being the first-round kayo of Emile Griffith. Rubin was a hard man with an equally hard punch. Rocky had a lot of the same qualities that Carter did, but he fought better fighters, and did it over a longer period of time.



This would be an exciting fight on the level of the Graziano-Zale battles. I see both men landing their best shots, with knockdowns coming in both directions. They could both take a lot of punishment. Carter, however, didn't have Zale's skills, and I think that Rocky would prevail by late-round kayo.

Harry Markson is a former president of Madison Square Garden Boxing.

Graziano will always be remembered for his thrilling three-fight series with Tony Zale. In their second bout, he took the middleweight crown by sixth-round kayo.



The most shocking victory of Carter's career was a first-round kayo of reigning welterweight champion Emile Griffith in December 1963. It was a non-title bout.

GEORGE BENTON

Graziano and Carter were very similar fighters. I think that Rocky was better conditioned; he trained very hard. He was very tenacious in the ring. Fighting in the late-'40s against the fighters that he did, he had to be. Graziano constantly swarmed over his opponents, and would wing his punches. He was relentless.

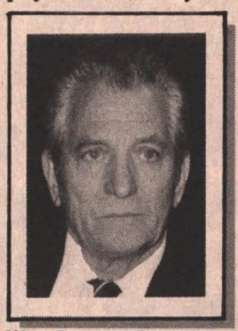
Carter was the better boxer of the two; smoother, more classic. Yet boxers gave Carter the most trouble. Rubin was very determined. He had good power and a good chin. Though he didn't have kayo power with both hands, the way Graziano did, he did have a good left hook.

It would be a war for as long as it lasted. I could see both guys landing their best punches. But Carter was more selective in his punching, and I believe it would cost him in the long run. Graziano's viciousness and his edge in conditioning would be the determining factors. I'm not sure when it would happen, but Graziano would stop Carter.

George Benton, who trains Evander Holyfield, Meldrick Taylor, and Pernell Whitaker, is a former middleweight contender. In May 1963, he lost a 10-round split decision to Carter.

ARTHUR MERCANTE

Both Graziano and Carter were extremely exciting. Graziano was the type of fighter that people loved to pay to see. Rocky was a *fighter* during an era when there were some great warriors in the division. Graziano, Zale, LaMotta, and even Robinson were *fighters,* guys who loved to mix it up. Even when he lost, Rocky would fight to the end.

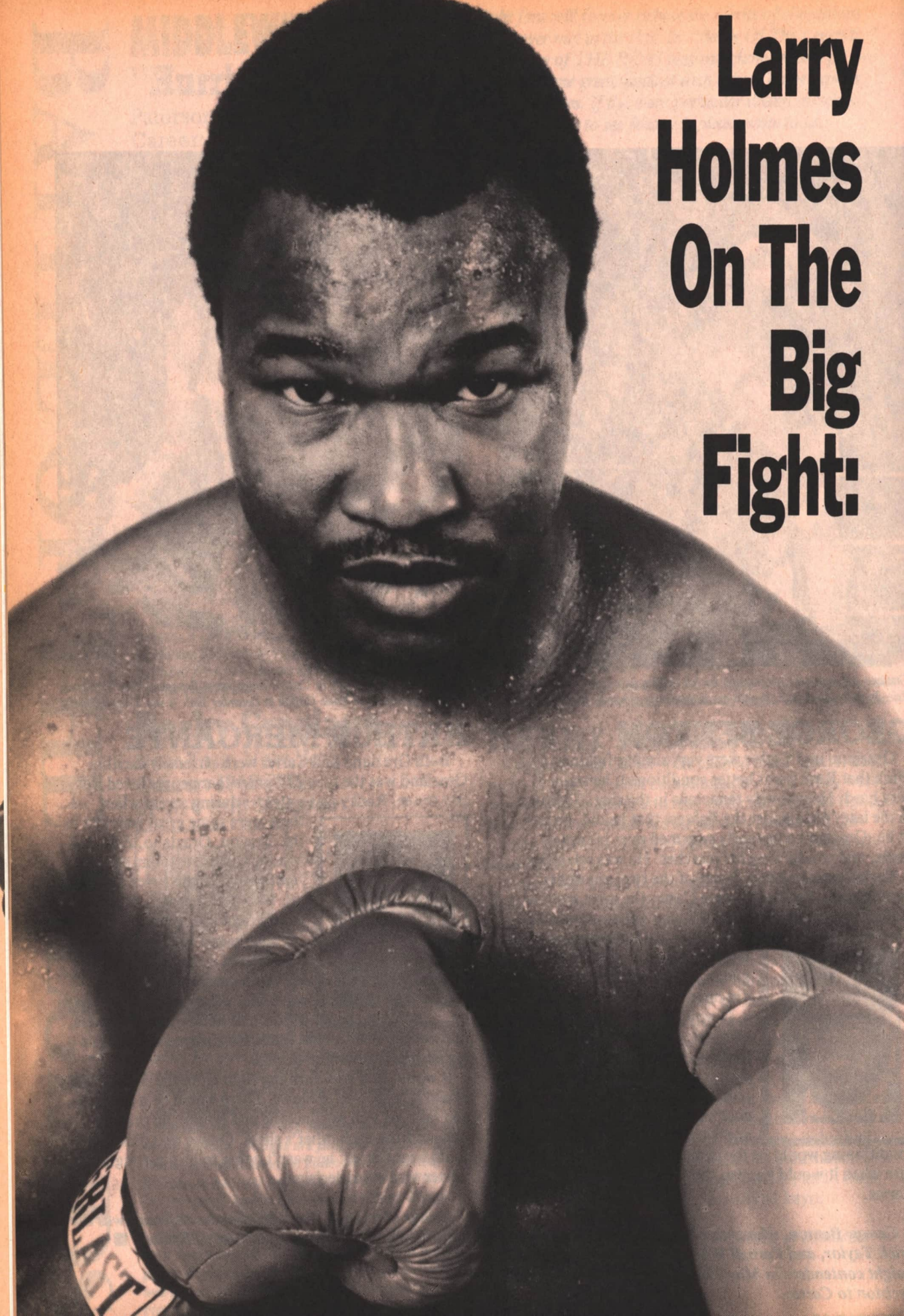


Carter was a very tough character, and a decent boxer as well. He was a hard man and he always showed up in excellent condition. His ability to beat boxers, like George Benton and Emile Griffith, as well as outslug sluggers, gave him an edge.

It would be a very thrilling fight from the start. Each would land powerful blows. There would be a lot give and take, as well as clinching and holding in order to recover from each other's shots. Only a real slick boxer could beat Carter; he wasn't going to be out-toughed. Carter on a close decision.

Arthur Mercante, the dean of active referees, was the third man in Carter's win over George Benton. ■

Larry Holmes On The Big Fight:



"I SEE ME TAKIN' HOLYFIELD OUTTA THERE"

By Larry Holmes

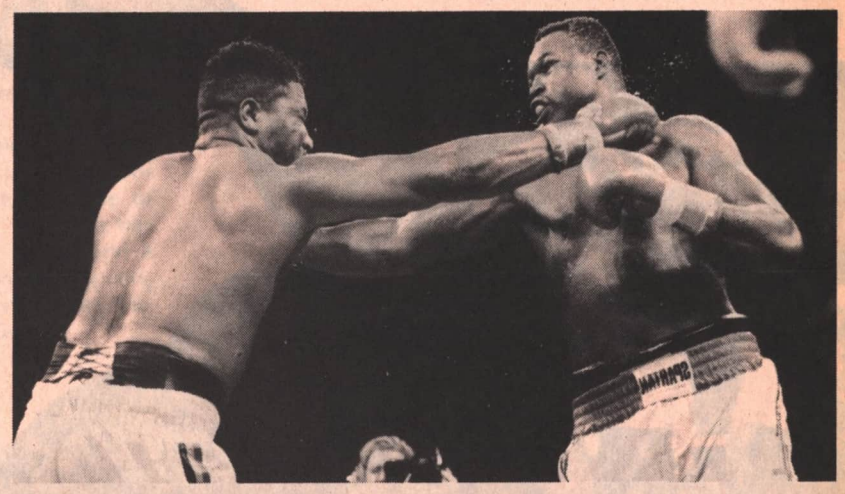
I'm in a situation I've never been in before in my life. When I was the champion, I was always in a no-win situation. Now, it's the opposite. If I lose to Evander Holyfield, everyone will say about me, "He was old." If I win, they'll say, "He's a great fighter." My goal is to be the heavyweight champion of the world again. But when you get down to it, everyone's in there for the money.

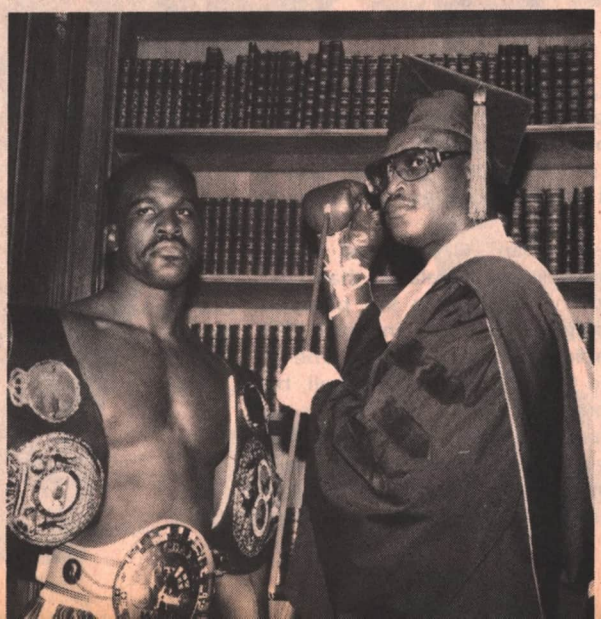
There has been a lot of talk about my age. Age is a factor, but it doesn't always determine the outcome of a fight. A person's determination has a lot to do with how far he can go. For instance, I don't think George Foreman had the talent to be a great fighter, but his determination made him a world champion, and allowed him, at age 42, to go 12 tough rounds with Holyfield.

I picked Foreman to beat Holyfield. George still has a good hook and jab, but he misses a lot with his right. Against Holyfield, he couldn't follow up the jab with the straight right, like he did when he dropped Alex Stewart. I proved against Ray Mercer, a top contender, that I can still land my right hand a lot.

Nobody thought that I could beat Mercer. I was a 5-to-1 underdog. A lot of people thought I'd be lucky if the fight went five rounds. I outboxed Mercer, outpunched him, and outsmarted him. I did everything necessary to win

(Continued on page 64)





In February, Holmes outsmarted Ray Mercer (above). Will his educated jab and ring intelligence allow him to capture Holyfield's three championship belts (left)?

"The Age Of 40 Is Not A Death Sentence"

—George Foreman

On June 19, Larry Holmes, age 42, will challenge Evander Holyfield, age 29, for the world heavyweight title. Inspired by the financial and artistic success of another former champion, George Foreman, Holmes has discovered that life after 40 doesn't have to be spent sitting behind a desk. He's 6-0 since coming back, and in his last bout, he earned a try at the title by outpointing the highly rated and previously undefeated Ray Mercer.

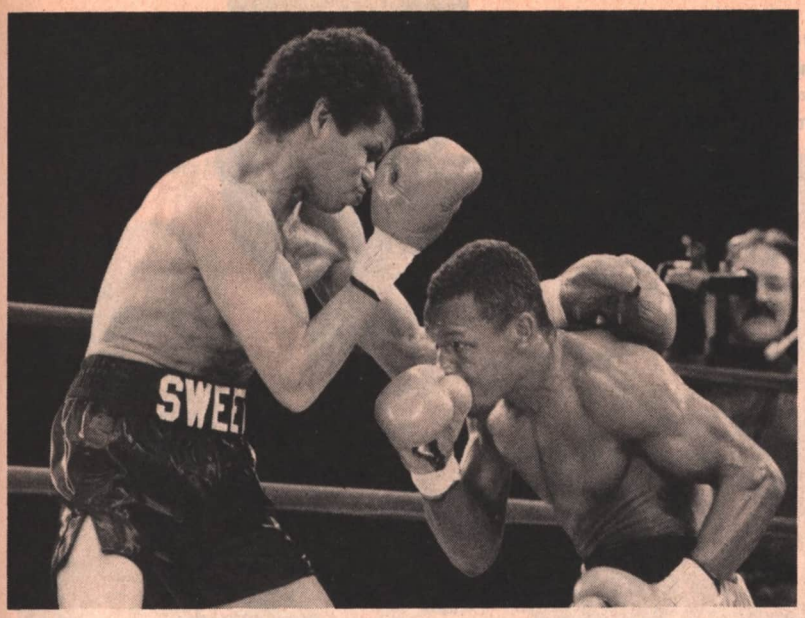
In this exclusive photo feature, *The Ring* examines some of the champions who, like Holmes, fought after their 40th birthday. Is age a state of mind? On June 19, Holmes will provide his own answer.

Foreman clocks Evander Holyfield

BIGGER, BETTER, AND OLDER, TOO: After losing to Jimmy Young in March 1977, former heavyweight champion George Foreman, 28, retired from boxing. He became a self-annointed preacher, and in the process developed a middle-age gut ahead of its time.

On March 9, 1987, Foreman, 38, returned to the ring. He was fat and slow, but more relaxed than ever, and when he punched, his opponents still plopped. Big George won 24 straight fights, and in April 1991, challenged world champion Evander Holyfield. The 42-year-old Foreman was a threat until the final bell, but lost a 12-round decision.

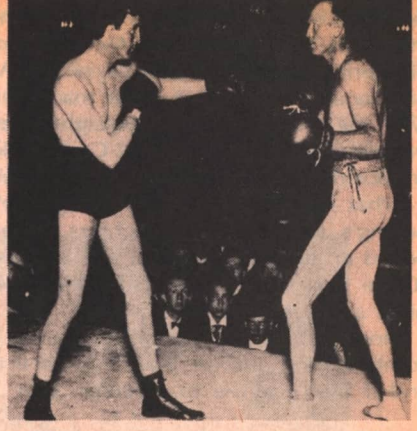
Foreman fights on, and hopes to secure one final title try. At 43, and even after a painful victory over Alex Stewart, he remains among the most dangerous heavyweights in the game. His record after turning 40: 12-1.



Mamby trades with Glenwood Brown

A FOUR-DECADE MAN: Only a handful of fighters have won bouts in four different decades. New York City's Saoul Mamby is among them. "Sweet Saoul" fights on at age 44. While he no longer possesses the skills that made him a world champion, he remains a difficult test for any junior welterweight. The key is conditioning; Mamby still goes to the gym every day, the way most of us go to work.

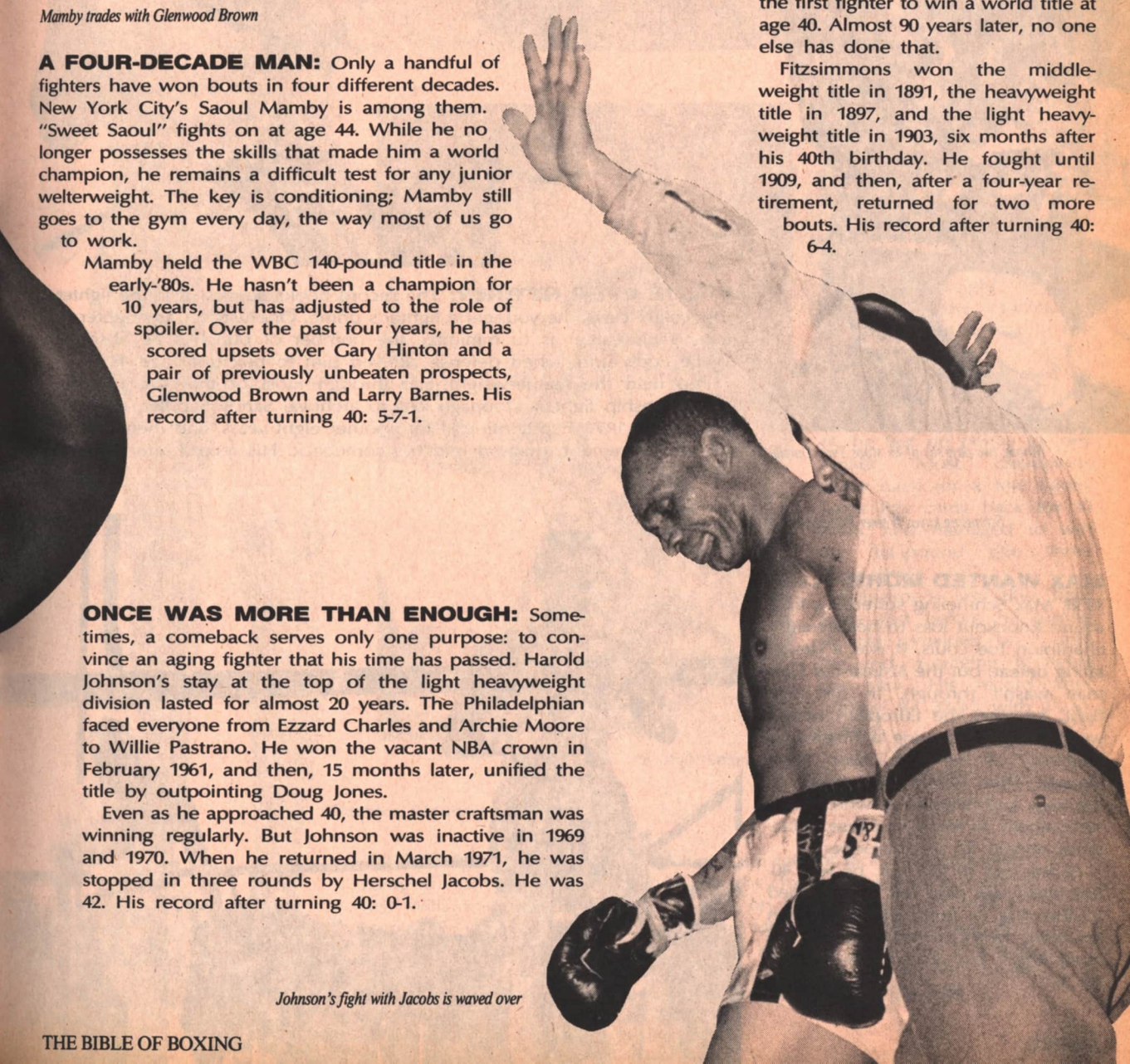
Mamby held the WBC 140-pound title in the early-'80s. He hasn't been a champion for 10 years, but has adjusted to the role of spoiler. Over the past four years, he has scored upsets over Gary Hinton and a pair of previously unbeaten prospects, Glenwood Brown and Larry Barnes. His record after turning 40: 5-7-1.



Fitzsimmons vs. George Gardner in 1903

WINNING THE TITLE AT 40: Over the course of his 31-year career, Bob Fitzsimmons became the first fighter to win world titles in three divisions. That accomplishment has since been matched by a handful of champions. He also became the first fighter to win a world title at age 40. Almost 90 years later, no one else has done that.

Fitzsimmons won the middleweight title in 1891, the heavyweight title in 1897, and the light heavyweight title in 1903, six months after his 40th birthday. He fought until 1909, and then, after a four-year retirement, returned for two more bouts. His record after turning 40: 6-4.



ONCE WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH: Sometimes, a comeback serves only one purpose: to convince an aging fighter that his time has passed. Harold Johnson's stay at the top of the light heavyweight division lasted for almost 20 years. The Philadelphian faced everyone from Ezzard Charles and Archie Moore to Willie Pastrano. He won the vacant NBA crown in February 1961, and then, 15 months later, unified the title by outpointing Doug Jones.

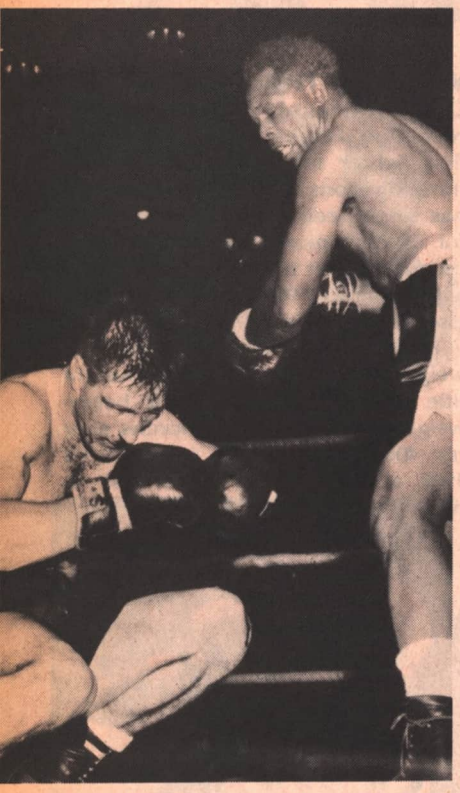
Even as he approached 40, the master craftsman was winning regularly. But Johnson was inactive in 1969 and 1970. When he returned in March 1971, he was stopped in three rounds by Herschel Jacobs. He was 42. His record after turning 40: 0-1.

Johnson's fight with Jacobs is waved over

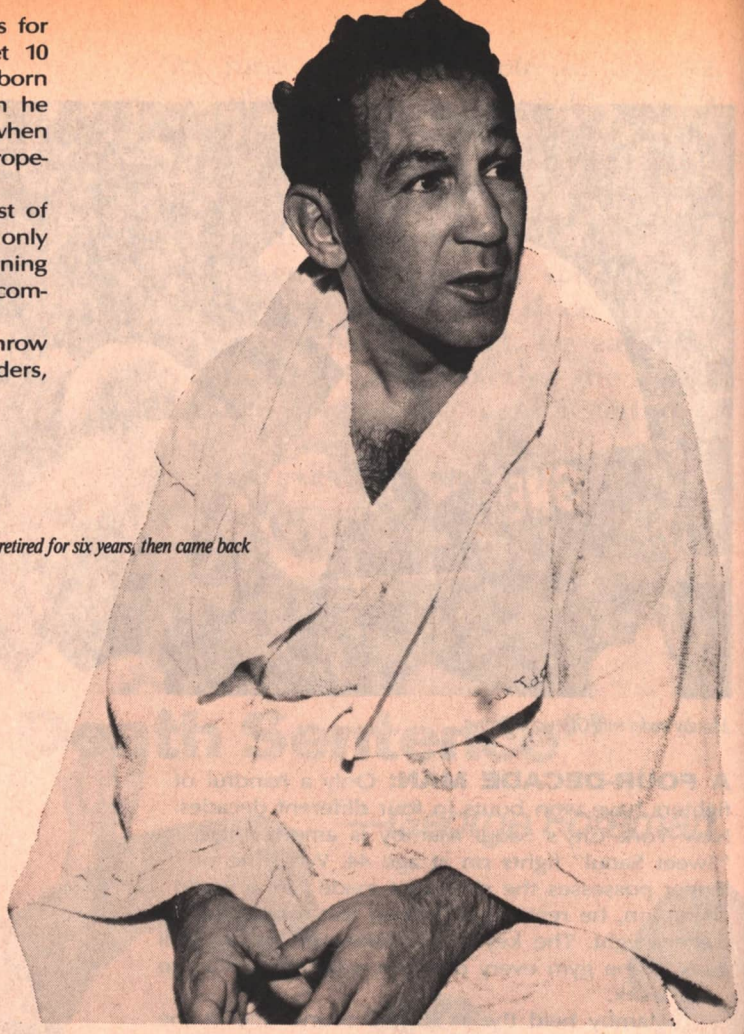
AGELESS ARCHIE: Ask 10 boxing historians for the birth date of Archie Moore, and you'll get 10 different answers. For our purposes, Archie was born on December 13, 1913. That made him 39 when he won the world light heavyweight title, and 48 when the New York State Athletic Commission and European Boxing Union stripped him of the crown.

What separates "The Ol' Mongoose" from most of boxing's fortysomething fighters is that he not only boxed at an advanced age, but excelled. After turning 40, he made eight successful title defenses and compiled a record of 44-4-2.

Moore, now 79, remains sprightly. He can throw combinations quicker than most active 175-pounders, and if they'd agree to relicense him . . .



Moore, two days shy of 45, stops Yvon Durelle



Pep retired for six years, then came back

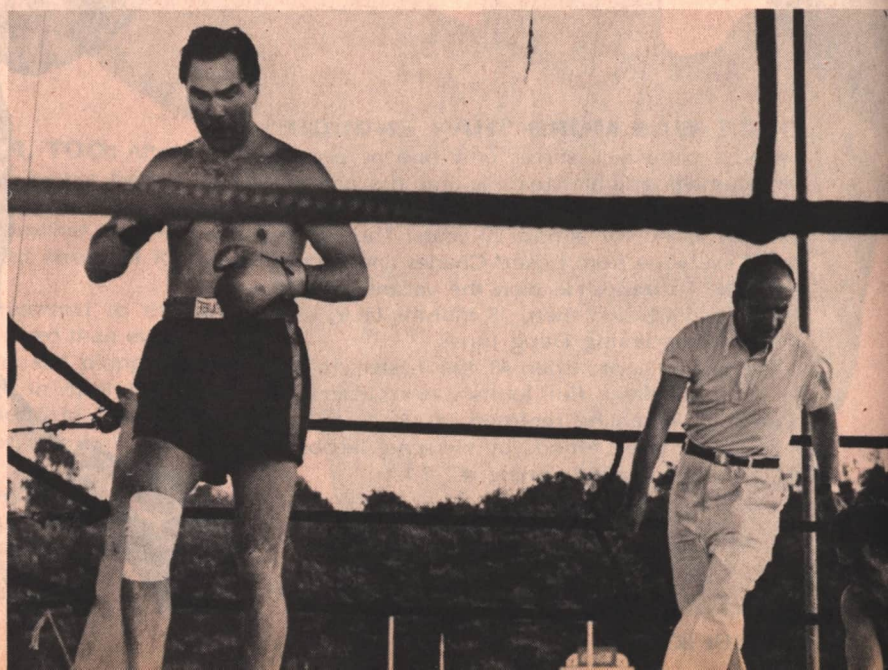
WILLIE EVER RETIRE?: The record books suggest that the lighter the weight class, the younger a fighter's prime. One way for any fighter to extend his career is to minimize the number of punches he absorbs. Willie Pep's unmatched defense allowed him to box until age 43.

Pep held the featherweight title through most of the '40s. His last championship fight, a stoppage loss to archrival Sandy Saddler, came in September 1951. Pep continued for another eight years, and then, after a six-year retirement, made a mid-'60s comeback. His record after turning 40: 9-1.

Schmeling kayos Werner Vollmer in 1948

MAX WANTED MORE: In June 1938, Max Schmeling suffered a first-round knockout loss to heavyweight champion Joe Louis. It was a devastating defeat, but the 32-year-old German wasn't through. In his next fight, he won the European heavyweight title by scoring a first-round knockout of his own, over Adolf Heuser. Then World War II got in the way, and Schmeling, who wasn't sympathetic to the Nazi cause, reluctantly served as a paratrooper.

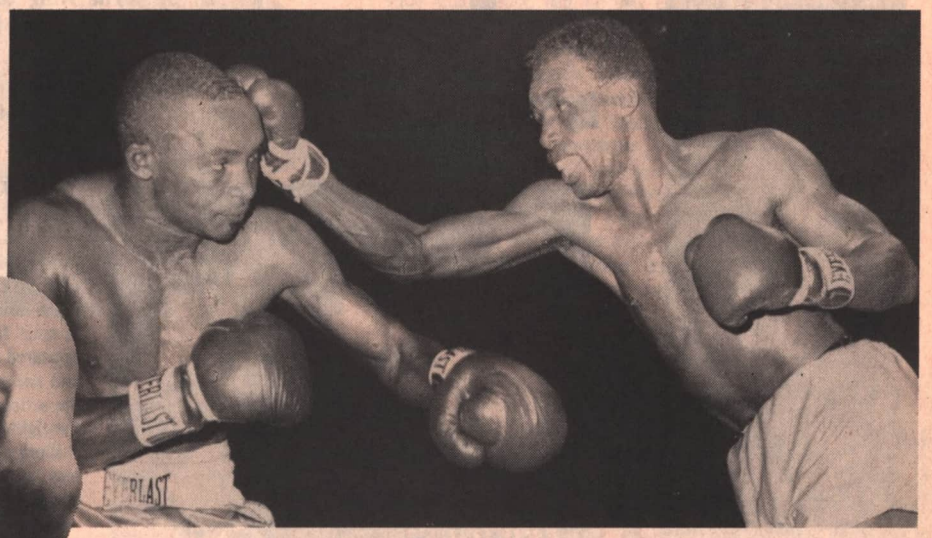
At the end of the war, he was 40. Still, there was fight left. He returned to the ring in September 1947—on his 42nd birthday—and fought five more times. His record after turning 40: 3-2.

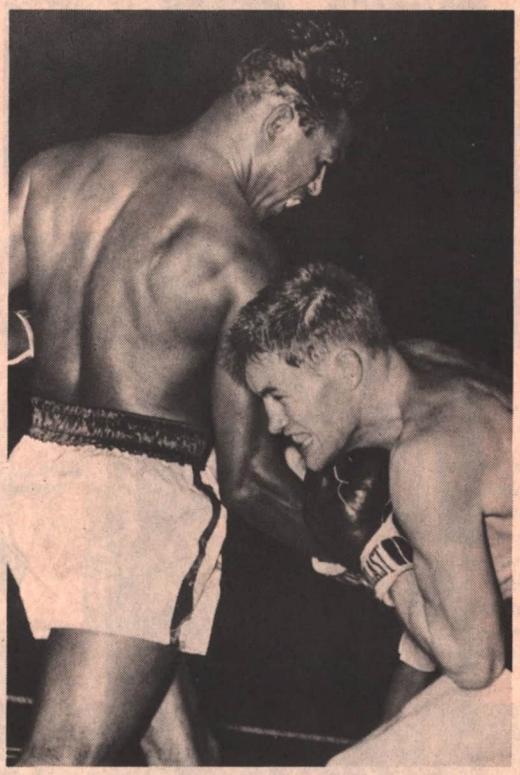


HE WAS ALWAYS OLD: When Joe Brown won the world lightweight title in August 1956, he had already been a pro for 14 years. Throughout his 5½-year reign, boxing writers made it seem as if he entered the ring on crutches, and drank Geritol between rounds. Though only in his early 30s, the champion was nicknamed "Old Bones."

Brown lost the crown in 1962, and fought another eight years. He never again contended for the title, but managed to tour the world. Among his stops were Finland, Argentina, Colombia, Italy, South Africa, Mexico, Jamaica, and England. By the time he retired (in April 1970), he was 43. His record after turning 40: 8-6-1.

Brown nails Percy Pugh in 1967





Robinson halts Canada's Wilfie Greaves in 1961

BOXING'S LONGEST COMEBACK: In December 1952, Sugar Ray Robinson, 31, decided to become a dancer. It seemed like a good idea; there was nothing left for him to conquer in boxing. He had won the welterweight and middleweight crowns, and secured the unofficial title of the best fighter in the game.

But Robinson returned in January 1955, and fought until November 1965, when, at age 44, he lost on points to Joey Archer. Most champions come back for a few fights. Sugar Ray came back for 10 years, and managed to win the 160-pound title three more times.

Robinson's last title fight came just before he turned 40. He remained busy until the end, averaging 10 fights per year. His record after turning 40: 32-9-3 with 1 no-contest.

The amazing Johnson fought until age 50

FIGHTING TILL 50: The last significant fight of Jack Johnson's career came in April 1915, when the heavyweight champion was dethroned by Jess Willard. Ringsiders blamed the loss on Johnson's age. He was 37.

Johnson never again contended for the title, but he kept fighting, even after serving in World War I, and, in 1920, spending 11 months in prison. The Texan's last fight came in May 1928, when he was kayoed by Bill Hartwell. Johnson was 50. His record after turning 40: 12-4-1. ■

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

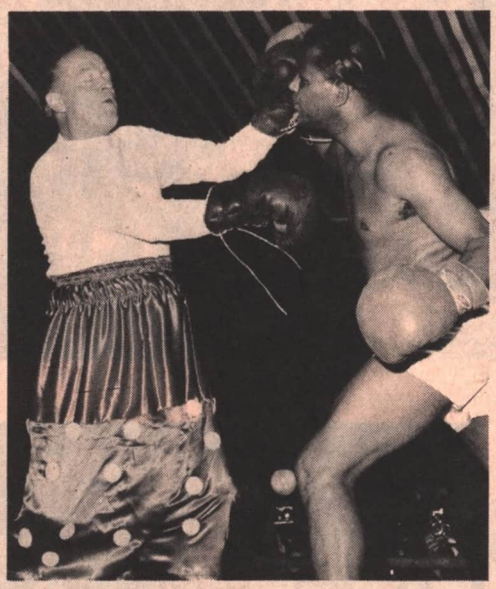
A TREASURE DISCOVERED

(Circa 1905)

Of all the heavyweight champions, Marvin Hart is by far the most difficult to research. Since his death in 1931 at age 55, historians have tried diligently to uncover data, only to run into one dead end after another. Photographs of Marvin are as rare as those of Lincoln, so that when a picture of him miraculously turns up, it is cause for celebration.

And celebrate we did when an 85-year-old *Ring* reader from Kentucky, which was Hart's home state, sent us this picture of the former champion, which, he wrote, "I found last week while looking through an old family album."

We believe the picture was taken in the spring or summer of 1905, either in California or Nevada, soon after Marvin won a decision over Jack Johnson, and shortly before he knocked out Jack Root to win the title.



FANCY PANTS

(April 21, 1972)

Throughout his long and fabled career, famed comic Bob Hope has had an affinity for boxing. In fact, he even had a few pro fights under the name Packy East. Every famous fighter from the last 50 years has appeared on one of Hope's countless radio and television shows. And most of the time the script called for Bob to ham it up with the fighter in some kind of makeshift ring.

During a 1978 interview, Hope said, "I was in the ring with more champs and ex-champs than anybody in history."

He was absolutely right. To name but a few: Dempsey, Louis, Marciano, Ali, Frazier, Johansson, Patterson, Graziano, LaMotta, Liston, and Armstrong. And, of course, Sugar Ray Robinson (in photo). Actually, Hope was returning a favor to Ray, appearing at a benefit for The Ray Robinson Youth Foundation in Los Angeles. Hope's clownish tights were a takeoff on his hit movie *Fancy Pants*.

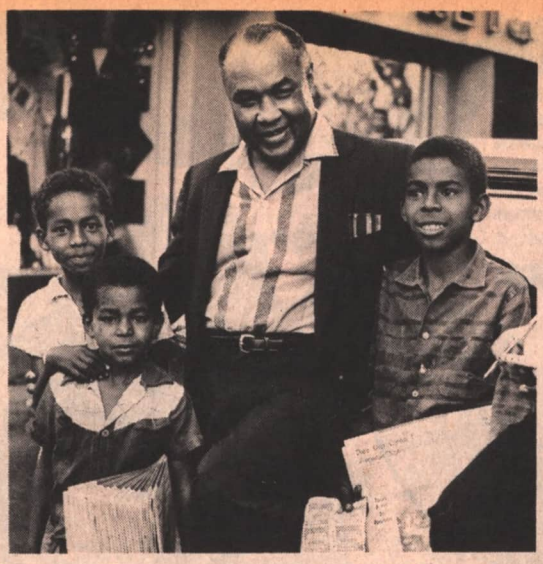
SPEEDY CHAMP

(June 26, 1909)

Jack Johnson never could resist a good woman or a fast automobile. Both pastimes gave Jack equal parts of pleasure and trouble. In a 1940 interview published in the *Denver Post*, Johnson estimated that he had been cited for speeding "more than a thousand times, in just about every state and every foreign city I've visited." The former heavyweight champion couldn't recall how many times he had been arrested and hauled off to jail.

One of the times he was jailed for speeding was in Pittsburgh, where four days later he was scheduled to box Tony Ross in a six-round exhibition. Technically, Johnson's crown would be at stake.

The charges: "Racing his auto at about 65 miles per hour on a main road in a reckless manner." The judge's ruling: "Thirty days or a $75 fine." Jack gladly paid the fine and strutted out of the jailhouse, flashing his famous golden smile for the waiting photographers. (The photo shows the champion swinging open the barred door.)



A MAN FOR ALL REASONS

(January 16, 1965)

The Reverend Henry Armstrong, while strolling through downtown Caracas, Venezuela, was suddenly surrounded by youngsters hawking newspapers, lottery tickets, and anything else that might be of interest to a rich American tourist. Of course, Rev. Armstrong had no interest whatsoever in such enticements. But he was emotionally drawn to the youngsters' plight.

Sensing a highly marketable picture, the team of photographers following the immortal triple champion instinctively composed this photo, which made the front page of every local newspaper. That added publicity played a major part in attracting a sellout crowd for the Eddie Perkins-Carlos Hernandez world junior welterweight title fight two days later in the city's new stadium. How many in that huge crowd came to see the fight, and how many to see Armstrong serve as referee?

DEATH MINUS 10

(July 4, 1925)

Jimmy McLarnin, 18, walks to his corner as his hand is raised in victory. The Irish teenager had just won a 10-round decision over world flyweight champion Pancho Villa in non-title bout in Oakland, California. For the enormously talented 24-year-old Villa, the most idolized of all Filipino prize fighters, it was only his ninth loss in 105 pro bouts.

It had been a close battle; head to head, crackling left jabs, jolting rights to the gut, rarely a backward step. It was the kind of fight that cried for a rematch.

When little Pancho, all 109 pounds of him, stumbled back to his dressing room—not more than five minutes after this picture was taken—he complained to his manager, debonair Frank Churchill, of a sharp pain on the right side of his face.

Ten days later, on July 14, 1925, Villa was dead of blood poisoning, caused by an infected tooth.

ROOKIE ROCKY

(January 13, 1949)

Handsome, broad-shouldered Rocky Castellani, looking more like a Wall Street broker than a brilliant middleweight contender, proudly accepts 1948's Rookie of the Year award from *The Ring* publisher Nat Fleischer.

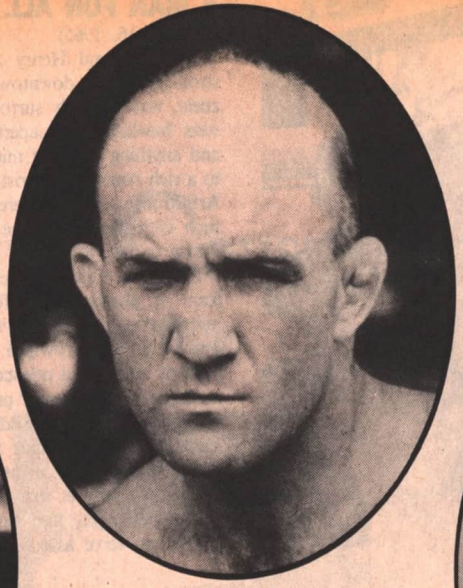
The 23-year-old native of Luzerne, Pennsylvania, was an solid choice. During his 14-year career, Rocky whipped several top 160-pounders, but lost a close decision to Bobo Olson in his sole bid for the world championship. When his fighting days were over, he became a highly respected referee and judge. He remains a credit to boxing.

LEARNING THE RIGHT WAY

(June 27, 1969)

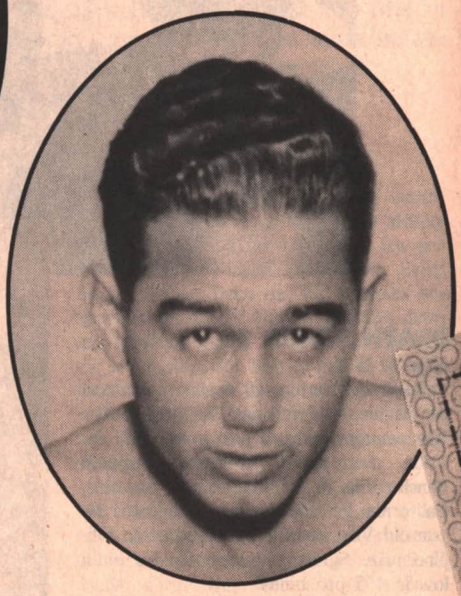
Boxing insiders have always insisted that the best referees are ex-fighters. Al Weill, who managed an array of world-class fighters, including Rocky Marciano, Lou Ambers, Arturo Godoy, and Joey Archibald, once said, "I get nervous when I see a referee who don't know what it feels like to be smacked on the nose or slugged in the belly. I don't think they should license a guy who didn't have at least half-a-dozen fights. With the gloves on *his* hands."

Richard Steele is a classic example of what shrewd old Al Weill was talking about. One of today's most respected referees, Steele compiled a respectable record as a light heavyweight before trading his robe for the traditional referee's gray uniform. In the photo, Steele is flanked by manager Jackie McCoy (left) and Mickey Davies after racking up another victory in Los Angeles.



Marcel Thil

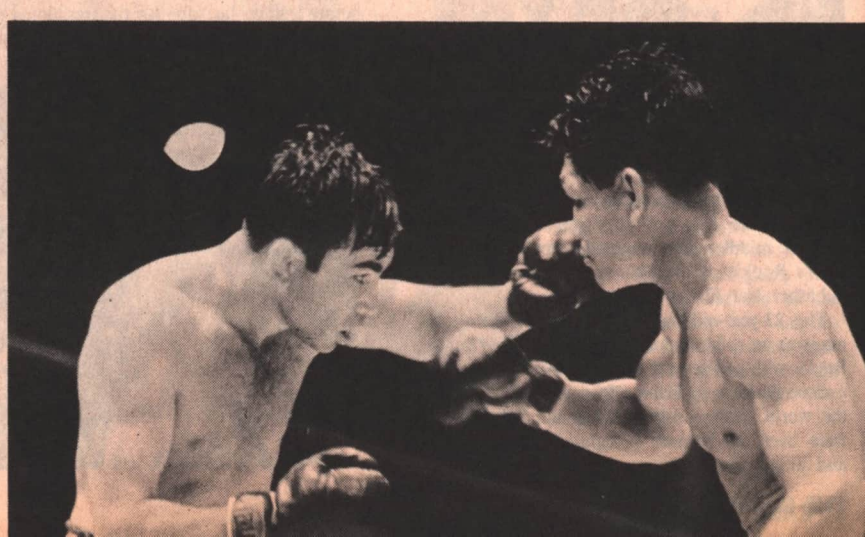
Lou Ambers

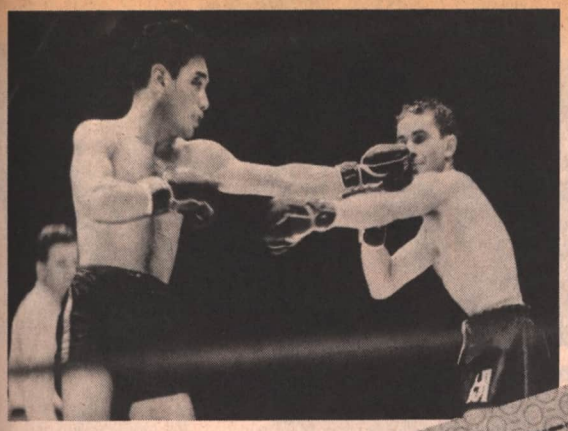


Sixto Escobar

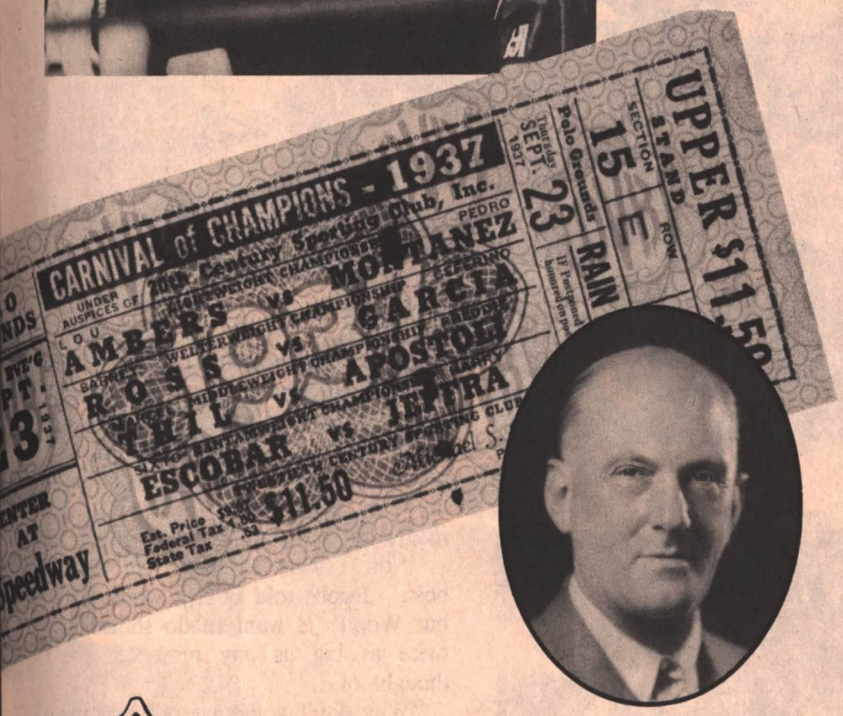
THE CARNIVAL OF

Barney Ross





When Mike Jacobs (bottom) promoted the Carnival of Champions, he thought he had the ticket to success. But title fights like Harry Jeffra's upset decision of Puerto Rican bantamweight king Sixto Escobar (left) failed to move boxing's most powerful promoter into the black.



CHAMPIONS

When Half The World's Titlists Fought On One Card

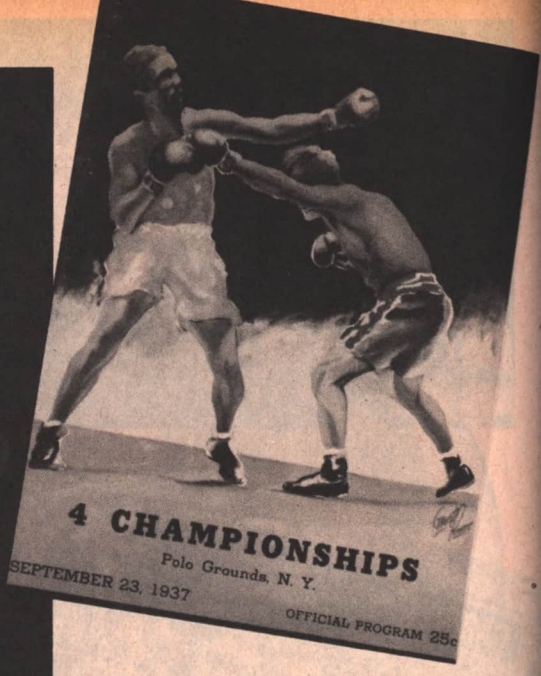
Welterweight champion Barney Ross barely survived his defense against Filipino powerpuncher Ceferino Garcia. Ross broke his left hand, but managed to gut out a unanimous decision.

By Roger Mooney

During his heyday as one of boxing's greatest promoters, Mike Jacobs was a lot of things to a lot of people. Ruthless to some. Arrogant to others. A money-grabbing monopolist to most. But in September 1937, "Uncle Mike," as he was referred to by the press, was being hailed as a genius. A visionary. He was the man who was about to change the course of boxing history by assembling the greatest card of all-time: four champions, defending their crowns in the same ring, on the same night.

Not bad for a guy who entered the fight game as a ticket scalper. Uncle Mike always knew how to make a buck, and his oversized nose, which protruded from under his glasses, was always sniffing out big-money attractions. He smelled a winner when Tex Rickard brought Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney together at Soldier's Field, and while Rickard came away with more than $2-million from the fight, Jacobs slipped into the Chicago night with a cool $90,000—the result of scalping tickets for 90 minutes.

Jacobs reached the big time because he was among the first to recognize the potential in a young black heavyweight named Joe Louis. Jacobs became "The Brown Bomber's" sole promoter during his 12-year reign as world champion.



Surprisingly, the lightweight title fight between Lou Ambers and Pedro Montanez (above) was a stinker. In the first bout, defending middleweight champion Marcel Thil was stopped on cuts by California's Fred Apostoli (right). The Carnival's program emphasized the card's significance (above right).

Uncle Mike understood his role well: separate the fight fan from his money. And the best way to do that was with a title bout. In August 1937, Jacobs grossed $265,000 with the Louis-Tommy Farr heavyweight title fight. Already, he was planning an encore.

"Now I want to show 'em who's boss," Jacobs told boxing writer Wilbur Wood. "I want to do something twice as big as any promoter ever thought of."

"Why don't you stage two championship fights the same night?" asked Wood. "No one's ever pulled that off before."

Jacobs smiled. "I'll double that," he said. "I'll give them *four* championship fights."

Thus was born the Carnival of Champions, a one-night extravaganza that would go down as one of Jacobs' greatest contributions to the sport. Never in the history of boxing had a promoter risked so much. But Uncle Mike was ready to take a chance. He found four popular champions and four worthy opponents, and secured New York City's Polo Grounds for September 23.

The lineup pitted four Americans against four foreigners:

- Marcel Thil of France, the world middleweight champion, vs. San Francisco's Fred Apostoli.
- Barney Ross of Chicago, the world welterweight champion, vs. Filipino Ceferino Garcia.
- Lou Ambers of Herkimer, New York, the world lightweight champion, vs. Puerto Rico's Pedro Montanez.

(Continued on page 58)

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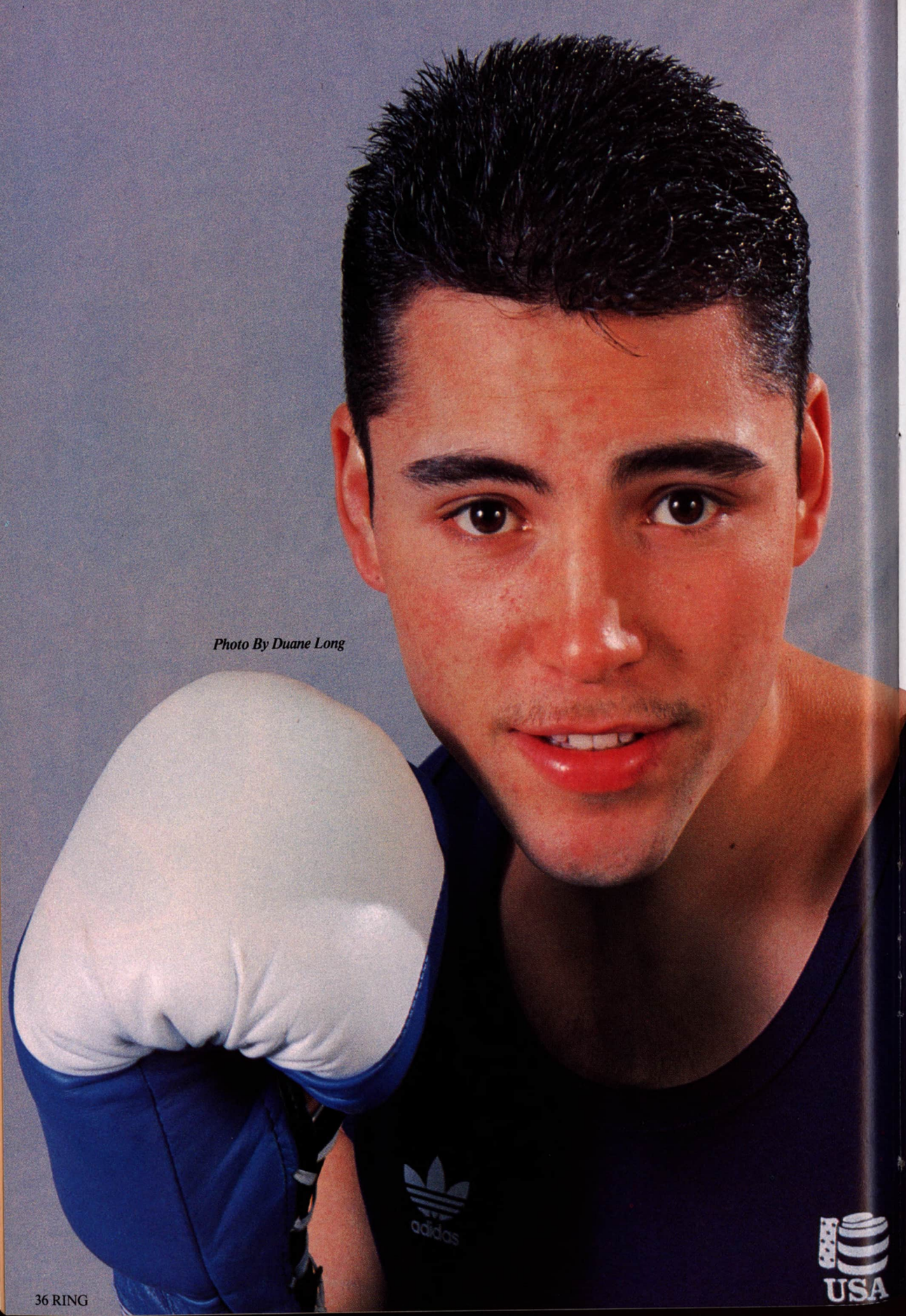


Photo By Duane Long

By Robert Cassidy

Oh those teenage stars. Don't you just feel sorry for them? You know, those precocious little wonders who miss out on all the good stuff because they're too busy becoming celebrities?

Think Jennifer Capriati attended her prom?

Think Michael Chang went to keg parties with his fraternity buddies?

Think Mary Lou Retton hung out at the local mall, trying to figure out what brand of hair spray to buy?

Think Oscar De La Hoya missed cruising up and down Sunset Boulevard with all the homeboys?

Nah.

Think they care? De La Hoya certainly doesn't.

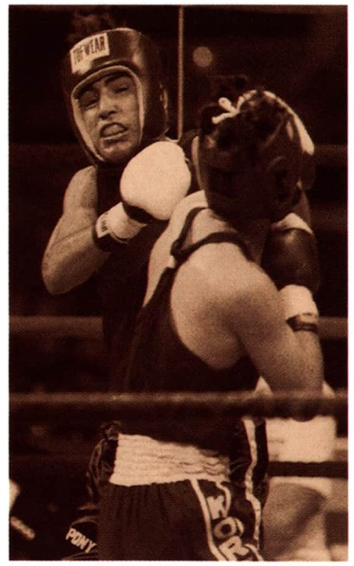
"I put everything aside," he said. "It's total dedication to my boxing."

The payoff has been rich. The 19-year-old De La Hoya, from rugged East Los Angeles, is favored to bring home the lightweight gold medal at this summer's Olympic Games. He hopes to restore glory to U.S. amateur boxing, a program once steeped with tradition, but now struggling to redefine itself.

While most kids were passing out love letters and tubes of Clearasil, De La Hoya was busy compiling a garish 213-5 amateur record. He graduated from Garfield High School last year, but missed the prom because he was fighting in a USA-Cuba dual meet in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"Sometimes I get down thinking about the things I missed," said De La

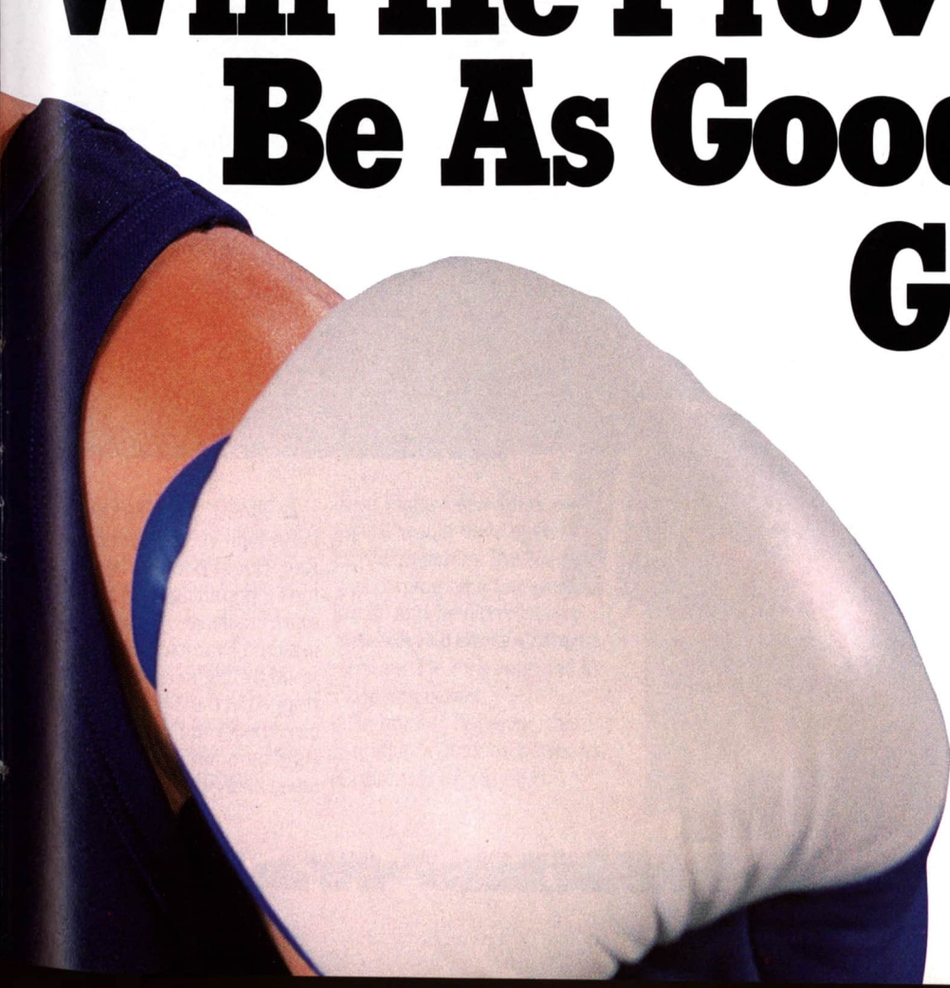
(Continued on page 53)



De La Hoya trades with Korea's Sang Hun Lee during 1990's Goodwill Games in Seattle. The American lightweight stopped Lee in round three en route to winning the gold medal.

OLYMPIC HOPEFUL OSCAR DE LA HOYA

Will He Prove To Be As Good As Gold?



One Last One-Fight Comeback

"Some have the speed and the right combinations
But if you can't take the punches, it don't mean
a thing"

—From the song "Boom Boom Mancini," by Warren Zevon, 1987

THAT boom boom YOU HEARD WAS MANCINI CRASHING

by Steve Nicolaisen

In June 1984, defending WBA lightweight champion Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini took a pounding from an obscure challenger named Livingstone Bramble. Mancini stood throughout, but was stopped in the 14th round. He fared better in the rematch eight months later, but was again badly cut around the eyes, and Bramble received a surprisingly close 15-round decision. It seemed the proper time for Boom Boom to bid farewell. And he did, at least for a while.

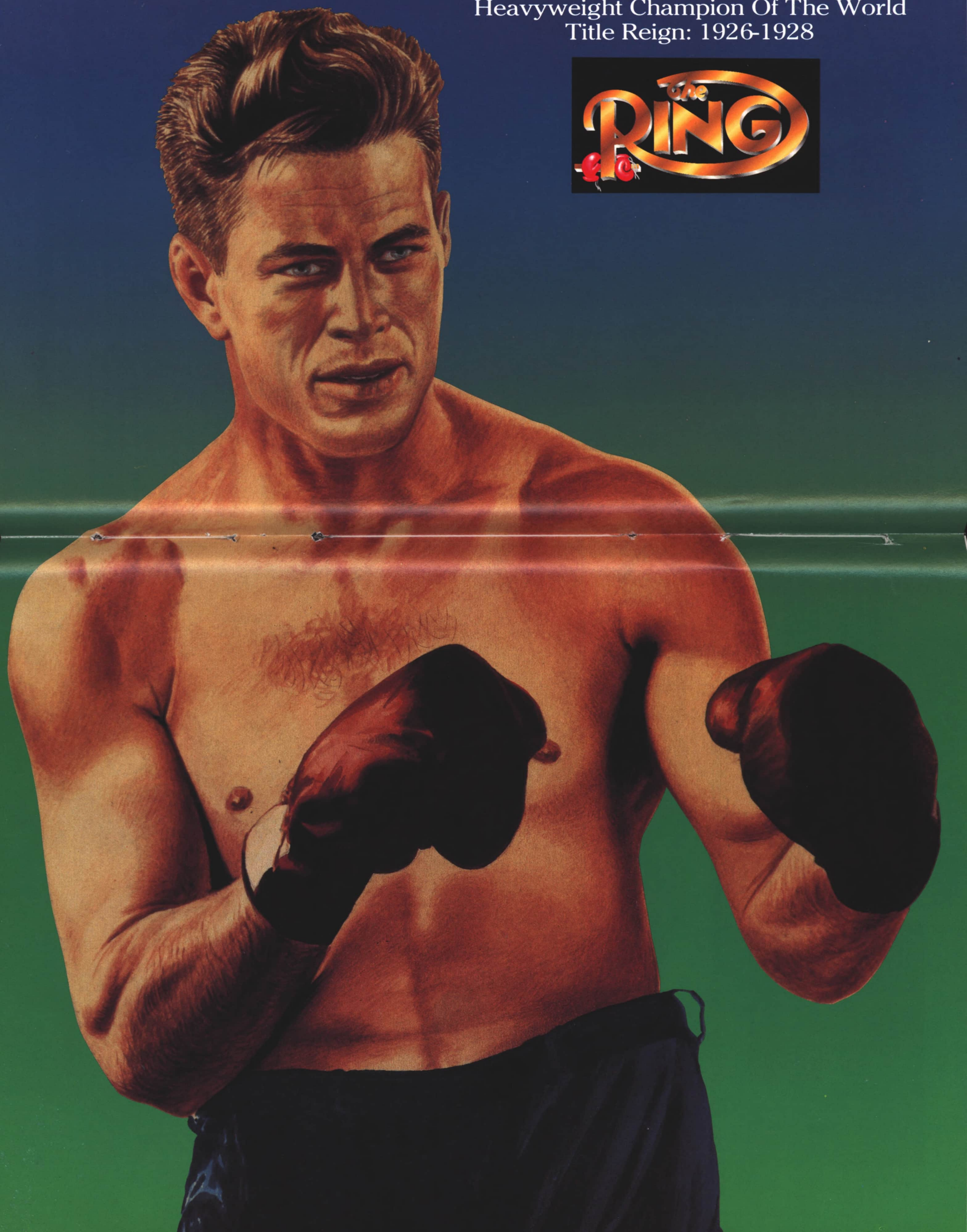
Like so many champions before him, he couldn't stay away. In 1989, he came back for a grudge bout against Hector Camacho. Had the fight been made a few years before, it would have been a terrific matchup. But Mancini was coming off a four-year layoff, and he did relatively well in losing a split 12-round decision. He then returned to his acting career.

In boxing, however, there is no quota on comebacks. In *(Continued on page 67)*

Greg Haugen closed Ray Mancini's left eye (above), and scored a crushing knockdown in the seventh round (left). Seconds later, "Boom Boom's" comeback was over.

GENE TUNNEY

James Joseph Tunney
Heavyweight Champion Of The World
Title Reign: 1926-1928



After Barely Surviving Alex Stewart . . .

FACE IT, GEORGE:

By Jeff Ryan

After 30 minutes of the kind of hell that middle-aged jocks are supposed to recall, not experience, after the bridge he'd so carefully constructed over a generation gap had collapsed, after the only references to hamburger was coming from ringsiders staring at his ravaged face, George Foreman leaned on his funny bone, the one part of him not swollen or sore. Somewhere in the crowded ring, he knew, was ring announcer Michael Buffer and his microphone. Foreman looked for Buffer, then for the Bufferin.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is George Foreman," he told a crowd of 11,140 fans in Las Vegas' Thomas & Mack Center. "Can anybody tell me where the aspirin is?"

Ba-da-boom.

You talk rimshots at the Thomas & Mack, and you're usually talking about the home team, the Runnin' Rebels basketball squad from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. In March, its coach, Jerry Tarkanian, stepped down after 19 years. "Tark The Shark," who flouted the rules of the NCAA, was told by the administration to say goodbye and stop bringing ridicule to the school. After his showing in April, "George The Whale," who has flouted the rules of Mother Nature and Father Time long enough, should be told to step down and stop bringing ridicule to his sport.

Whether or not George Foreman's career goes on, his stand-up comedy act has come to a close. By the 10th and

Photos By Marc Morrison

Foreman struck Stewart low throughout the fight (top), but when it was all over, Stewart had punished Big George with enough lefts and rights to make the ex-champion consider retirement.

final round against Alex Stewart, the only comedy was watching Foreman try to stand up. His eyes were two slits, his nose was broken, and his upper lip was so swollen that it looked like he was wearing his *and* Stewart's mouthpieces. With that image on the screen in the 18 million living rooms serviced by HBO, it's going to be hard to get that cheeseburger routine to play in Middle America ever again.

Foreman's punches took longer to launch than the space shuttle, and the roly-poly holy man, the picture of sportsmanship in recent years when asking referees to rescue his opponents from harm, had become the antithesis of the good Christian soldier. He no doubt did his own praying in the late rounds, but his butting, elbowing, and purposeful low blows sure seemed intended to bring Stewart to his knees.

After Foreman had earned a majority decision, he conceded that he should have finished Stewart after he had him down twice in round two, and was one good punch away from a win via the three-knockdown rule.

"I took it easy on the kid," he said. "I didn't want to hurt him."

He tried to say it with a straight face, but that wasn't possible. Stewart had beaten it crooked.

"He wanted to take it easy on the kid," a smirking Sugar Ray Leonard sniffed a week after the fight. "Bull____, George."

Those knockdowns were undoubtedly the most important ones Foreman had scored since he toppled Joe Frazier six times to win the crown in 1973. Though he lost a point for low blows in round 10, Foreman got a 94-93 nod on the cards of Art Lurie and Dalby Shirley, while Patricia Jarman scored 94-94. (*The Ring* saw Foreman the winner by a 94-93 count.) The bout would have been a draw had Shirley not give Foreman a 10-7 edge in the second, a round that Lurie and Jarman both scored 10-8.

The morning after, the excuses flowed the way Big George only wished his punches could have, with the Foreman camp actually believing that Stewart's gloves had been injected with water in order to make the gauze-and-tape handwraps like plaster. Despite the victory, Foreman and Co. felt a pressing need to try and save face, something the preacher's mouthpiece and Angelo Dundee's Enswell hadn't done.

Foreman won the fight, but lost the momentum he had hoped to build for another multimillion-dollar title fight. After all, he'd developed an incredible reputation for handpicking opponents. The mere fact that Foreman is fighting a guy indicates that the poor sap should be dismissed in three rounds—maximum. Stewart, who had been halted by Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson, and Michael Moorer, and had a reputation for being terrified in big fights, didn't even have his own manager believing in him.

"He just can't take a punch anymore," Jim Fennell said just before the fight. "He'll just be a punching bag with human hair on top. Every punch now hurts him."

There were two significant moments in the bout, the first resulting in Stewart exposing Foreman as a punching bag with *no hair,* and the second resulting in Foreman exposing Stewart—and saving the fight. Moment One came in round two, when Stewart refused to fall for a third time. It was obvious that the fight plan of the 259-pound Foreman was the equivalent of driving around with an eighth of a tank of gas. Hey, isn't that all he needs to get where he's going?

Yes, but what happens if something unexpected comes up, like a roadblock or a detour? After Stewart, 28-4 (28), rose from the deck—and the dead—Foreman, 71-3 (66), was the one on wobbly legs. By the third round, he was breathing through his mouth, flailing wildly, and finding himself unable to land anything consistently, except for his jab.

Moment Two came in the eighth round, when Foreman, who appeared ready to crash if backed up or pasted with a solid combination, rallied to rock Stewart with right crosses and uppercuts. The moxie that many doubted the Jamaican had, which had surfaced in rounds two through seven, seemed to instantly drain away. Stewart spent the last two rounds listening to his corner's instructions to jab, and in the 10th, he hardly looked like a man trying to take the fight away from the sentimental favorite.

Twice in round two, Foreman knocked Stewart down with right hands (left). But both times, Stewart climbed off the floor and fought on.

When Stewart was knocked down the first time (above), Foreman expected him to stay down. After all, isn't that what his other comeback opponents did?

"My plan was to box him, and I stuck to the game plan," Stewart explained. "I should have let it all hang out. I still had something left in the end."

In the end, Foreman had nothing left in terms of skills, but a few things left in terms of options. So it is when you're a superstar, even one who is reduced to hatching conspiracy theories to explain away a struggle with a 6-1 underdog. In the near future, the former heavyweight king

(Continued on page 55)

THE IMMORTAL HARRY GREB

Rude, Crude, And Always In The Mood

By Ken Merritt

Harry Greb sat in his corner and stared at his opponent through the blue haze and cigarette smoke. As they say at the race track, he wasn't breathing hard enough to blow out a candle. In the opposite corner, Mickey Walker, "The Toy Bulldog," had a split lip, a bruised and battered nose, and a right eye that was puffed and almost closed.

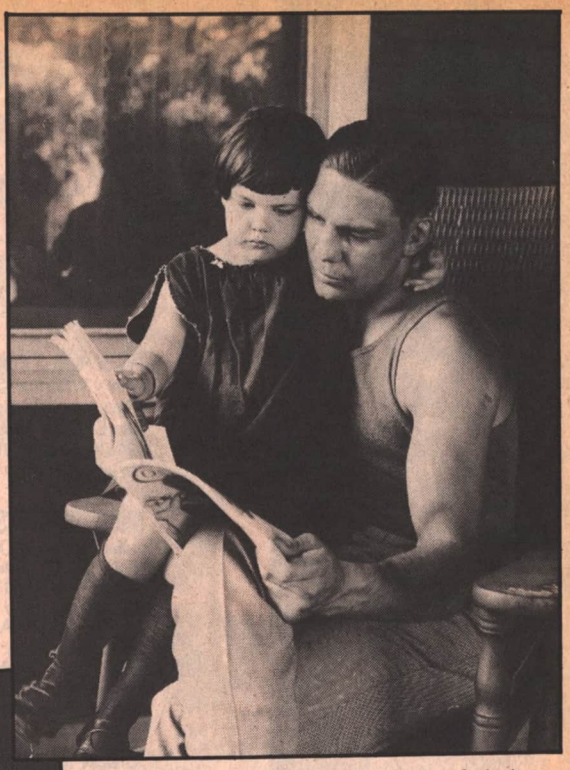
At the bell, as he started toward the center of the ring, Greb caught the eye of his friend, Hap Albacher, at ringside. He cupped his hands over his chest and pointed to a willowy ash-blonde whose chest he'd been staring at during most of the fight. Albacher nodded. The arrangements had been made for the girl to meet Harry later at Billy Duffy's Silver Slipper.

There were two things in this world that Greb would rather have done than eat—and one of them was fight.

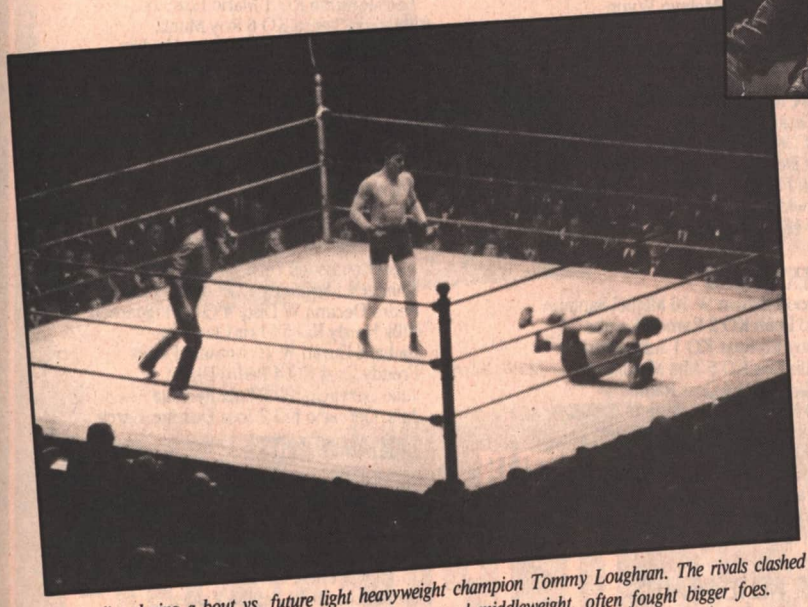
As a fighter he was brilliant: an unorthodox, lunging, brawling, perpetual motion machine who would fight anyone, anywhere, and at any time. With the ladies, his strategy was equally crude, but equally effective, and his breaking of the training rules can only be described as Homeric.

Greb died at age 33 in an Atlantic City hospital on October 22, 1926, following an operation on his nose. Con-

Greb squares off with Kid Norfolk before the start of their bout. Norfolk thumbed Greb during infighting, and the Pittsburgh middleweight permanently lost the sight of his right eye.



The tender side: Greb with daughter Dorothy in August 1923. Days later, he won the title from Johnny Wilson.



Greb slips during a bout vs. future light heavyweight champion Tommy Loughran. The rivals clashed six times, mostly in no-decision bouts. Greb, a natural middleweight, often fought bigger foes.

trary to legend, it was not sheer vanity that led him into the hands of the surgeons. Of course his nose had been flattened by a thousand punches, and no doubt Greb would have been delighted to reappear with a Byronic profile. But that was not the prime reason for the nose job. Two weeks earlier he had cracked up an automobile in Pittsburgh, and the operation was to remove a bone splinter that was affecting his breathing.

Anyway, death was attributed to heart failure, superinduced by the shock of the operation, combined with injuries received in the accident. Later opinion had it that he died of a massive blood clot on the brain, and this perhaps had come from absorbing too many punches.

However, in the years he was fighting—he was middleweight champion from 1923 through 1926, and at one time took the American light heavyweight title from Gene Tunney—no fighter ever fought more often, more aggressively, or with less regard for his opponent's size and weight. Greb stood 5'8", and his best fighting weight was 160 pounds. Nevertheless, he fought and beat good heavyweights who outweighed him by 40 or 50 pounds.

Among the savants of the fight game, the opinion is widely held that only Stanley Ketchel could have given the prime Greb a run.

Greb would have fought a telephone booth if he heard the bell ring. And yet for some reason he is largely forgotten today. Perhaps that's because he was not really a puncher, and history seems to favor a fighter who can cleave a man's skull with one blow. Some years ago, Greb was inducted into boxing's Hall of Fame along with Tunney, Walker, Sam Langford, Terry McGovern, and Joe Walcott (the original, of course). But certainly Greb is the least known of these.

One of the people who knew Greb well was New York's late legendary trainer Whitey Bimstein, who used to be found every day at the gym, or relaxing at a bar called the Neutral Corner, which was on Eighth Avenue and 55th Street.

Bimstein was a small, slender man with salmon-colored eyes and a sparse

(Continued on page 56)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
George Foreman W 10 Alex Stewart
Riddick Bowe KO 1 Conroy Nelson
Michael Moorer W 10 Bigfoot Martin
Tim Witherspoon W 10 James Pritchard
Tommy Morrison KO 5 Wimpy Halstead
Francesco Damiani W 8 Frankie Swindell
Jerry Jones W 10 Carl Williams
Leon Spinks W 10 Rick Myers
Herbie Hide KO 1 Percell Davis
Craig Peterson W 12 Young Haumona
Lou Savarese KO 2 Elvin Evans
Mike Evans KO 1 Andre Crowder
Biagio Chianese KO 1 Linwood Jones
Henry Tillman W 10 Mark Lee
Vince Jones W 10 Rocky Pepeli
Mark Gastineau KO 1 Lon Liebergen

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Anaclet Wamba KO 8 Rickey Parkey
(Non-Title Bout)
Dwight Qawi KO 1 Ric Lainhart
Orlin Norris KO 8 Anthony Hembrick
Magne Havnaa KO 4 Dave Jaco
Johnny Held W 10 Ralf Rocchigiani
Jason Waller KO 2 Matthew Saad Muhammad
Art Jimmerson KO 2 Jordan Keeper
Tony Willis KO 6 Keith Willis
Cordwell Hylton KO 3 Jean-Marie Emebe

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Iran Barkley W 12 Thomas Hearns
(Wins WBA Title)
Frank Tate KO 6 Tim Johnson
Henry Maske KO 7 Leslie Stewart
Henry Maske W Disq. 9 Steve McCarthy
Fabrice Tiozzo W 8 Tony Wilson
Salvador Maciel W Disq. 7 Saul Montana
Kevin Watts W 10 Tyrone Frazier
Glazz Campbell W 10 Tom Collins
Ramzi Hassan KO 4 Greg Gorrell
Ed Mack KO 1 Stanley Robinson
Vaughn Hooks KO 1 Randy Rivers
Eric Nicoletta KO 3 Clemente Ortiz
Robert Folley KO 2 James Church

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Tony Thornton W 8 Danny Mitchell
Merqui Sosa KO 3 Willie Kemp
Frank Nicotra KO 1 James Cook
Henry Wharton KO 1 Kenny Schaefer
Vincenzo Nardiello W 8 Troy Watson
Ron Essett W 8 Pierre-Frank Winterstein
Glen Thomas W 10 Vince Durham
Nicky Piper W 10 Ron Amundsen

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julian Jackson KO 5 Ron Collins
(Retains WBC Title)
James Toney W 12 Glenn Wolfe
(Retains IBF Title)
Roy Jones KO 1 Art Serwano
Sumbu Kalambay W 12 Herol Graham
Chris Pyatt KO 3 Melvyn Wynn
Francesco Dell'Aquila W 8 Tim Bryan
Robbie Sims KO 4 Dennis Johnson

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 1 Alberto Arreola
Gilbert Dele KO 10 Johnny Gutierrez
Gilbert Dele KO 8 Alfredo Ramirez
Vernon Phillips KO 6 Mario Gaston
Pat Lawlor W 10 Tony Biglen
Davey Hilton KO 8 Steve Langley

WELTERWEIGHTS
Glenwood Brown W 10 Miguel Santana
Genaro Leon KO 2 Ramon Ramos
Yori Boy Campas KO 1 Julian Benitez
Romallis Ellis KO 5 Abe Martinez
Luis Garcia KO 4 Cruz Ramos
Engels Pedroza KO 3 Alberto Castro
Ludovic Proto W 10 Edwin Curet
Tony Ekubia KO 2 Verdell Smith
William Hernandez KO 8 Robert Wangila
Gary Jacobs KO 2 Tommy Small
Donovan Boucher KO 11 Robert Wright
Ricky Hesia KO 2 Rocky Granillo

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Akinobu Hiranaka KO 1 Edwin Rosario
(Wins WBA Title)
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 5 Angel Hernandez
(Retains WBC Title)
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 4 Juan Soberanes
(Non-Title Bout)
Greg Haugen KO 7 Ray Mancini
Oba Carr W 10 Roland Commings
Vince Phillips W 12 Harold Brazier
Ike Quartey KO 1 Dindo Canoy
Viatcheslav Ianovski KO 2 Shinichi Furukawa
Tony Ekubia W Disq. 5 Eamonn Loughran
Carl Griffith KO 5 Karim Rabbi
Kostya Tszyu KO 1 Ned Simmons
Morris East KO 10 Pyung Sup Kim
Rodolfo Aguilar W 10 Steve Larrimore
Guillermo Cruz KO 7 Javier Marquez
Primo Ramos KO 6 Marco Antonio Lizarraga

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Jorge Paez W 10 Johnny de la Rosa
Joey Gamache W 10 Tommy Hanks
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 5 Ramon Marchena
Rafael Ruelas KO 1 Panchito Lopez
Luis Mora W 12 Omar Flores
Eusebio Pedroza KO 3 Thomas Quinones
Harold Warren KO 8 Tommy Parks
Kenny Baysmore KO 2 Floyd Favors
Rodney Wilson W 10 Pajarito Marquez
Jean-Baptiste Mendy KO 9 Antonio Renzo
Rene Weller KO 3 Higinio DeLeon

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Calvin Grove W 10 Regilio Tuur
Gabriel Ruelas KO 1 Moises Martinez
Daniel Londas W 12 Kamel Bou-Ali
Jimmi Bredahl KO 11 Pierre Lorcy
Jorge Ramirez KO 3 Craig Pevy
Frankie Avelar KO 2 Aaron Lopez
Peter Nieves W 10 Luis Rodriguez
Renaldo Carter W 10 Bryan Brown
Rafael Zuniga KO 3 Jose Maria Burgos

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Manuel Medina W 12 Fabrice Benichou
(Retains IBF Title)
Tom Johnson KO 1 Mario Lozano
Maurizio Stecca KO 6 Roy Muniz
Colin McMillan KO 6 Tommy Valdez
Freddy Cruz KO 4 Willie Richardson
Alejandro Rodriguez KO 8 Harold Rhodes
Luisito Espinosa W 10 Rudy Cabiles
Stephane Haccoun KO 3 Willie Garcia

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Wilfredo Vasquez KO 3 Raul Perez
(Wins WBA Title)
Thierry Jacob W 12 Daniel Zaragoza
(Wins WBC Title)
Jesse Benavides Tech. Draw 2 Efrain Pintor
Kennedy McKinney KO 6 Paul Banke
Pedro Decima W Disq. 4 Cirilo Figueredo
Billy Hardy KO 5 Chris Clarkson
Richard Duran W 10 Antonio Flores
Freddy Cruz KO 4 Pedro Davila
Julio Gervacio KO 9 Luiz Ferreira
Julio Gervacio KO 2 Jose DeJesus Garcia

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Victor Rabanales Tech. Dec. 9 Yong Hoon Lee
(Wins Vacant WBC Title)
Eliecer Julio W 10 Luis Malve
Duke McKenzie KO 8 Wilfredo Vargas
Vincenzo Belcastro W 10 Hector Patri
Johnny Bredahl KO 5 Donnie Hood
Cesar Soto W 10 Pepillo Valdez
Yasuei Yakushiji W 10 Ricarte Kurihara
Clarence Adams W 12 Javier Diaz

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Thalerngsak Sithboabay
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Armando Castro KO 4 Esteban Ayala
Gerry Penalosa W 10 Eddie Boy Yabut

FLYWEIGHTS
Yong Kang Kim KO 6 Jonathan Penalosa
(Retains WBA Title)
Scotty Olson W 12 Abraham Garcia
Yuri Arbachakov W 10 Smanchai Chalermsri
Pat Clinton W 12 Isidro Perez
Alberto Jimenez KO 7 Eduardo Ramirez
Rolando Bohol W 10 Sergio Pepito

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Hiroki Ioka W 12 Noel Tunacao
(Retains WBA Title)
Melchor Cob Castro W Disq. 3 Javier Juarez

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ricardo Lopez W 12 Pretty Boy Lucas
(Retains WBC Title)
Andy Tabanas KO 1 Ken Moriyama
Tacy Macalos KO 4 Sammy Ansig
Javier Varguez W 12 Pablo Tiznado
Alfred Xeque Tech. Draw 10 Raul Rios

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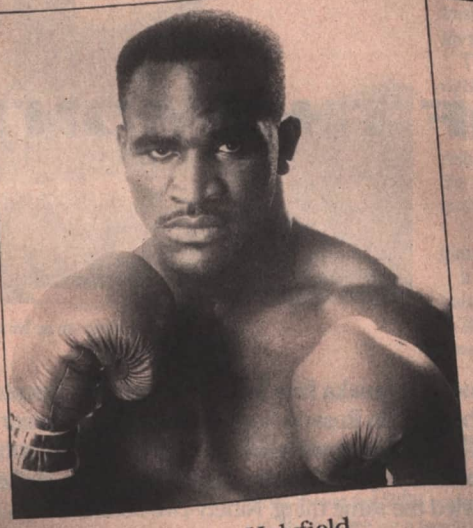
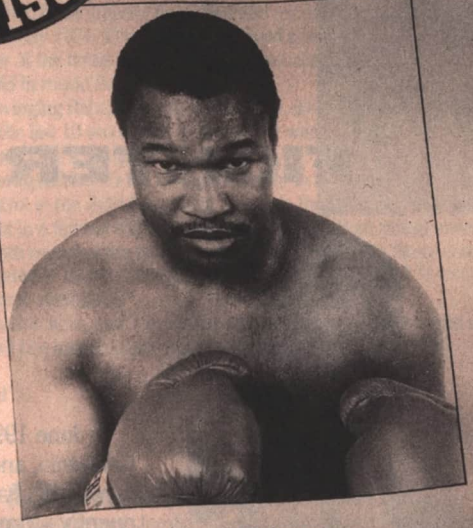


Evander Holyfield
World Heavyweight Champion, 27-0, 22 KOs
Height 6'2". Weight 210 lbs. Atlanta, GA



Larry Holmes
Professor of Pugilism, 54-3, 37 KOs
Height 6'3". Weight 230 lbs. Easton, PA

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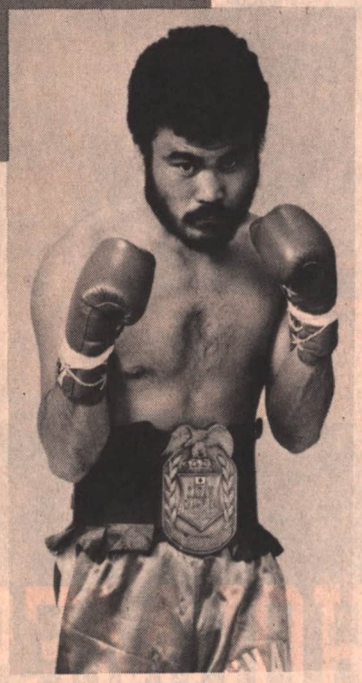
FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



Akinobu Hiranaka

In June 1991, Akinobu Hiranaka flew from Tokyo to Sacramento, California, and watched Edwin Rosario hurt defending WBA junior welterweight champion Loreto Garza with his first punch. (Rosario subsequently scored an upset kayo.) He liked the idea, so when he challenged Rosario in April, he tried the same thing. Ninety-two seconds later, he was a world champion.

Hiranaka's victory capped a wonderful two-week stretch for Japanese boxers. On the same night as Hiranaka-Rosario, Katsuya Onizuka won the vacant WBA junior bantamweight title by outpointing Thalerngsak Sithbaobay. And 10 days before, WBA junior flyweight champion Hiroki Ioka had retained the crown by decisioning Noel Tunacao.

The stretch of success reintroduced Japan as a boxing power. Its slump is officially over.

Wilfredo Vasquez KO 3 Raul Perez,

Mexico City, Mexico—Many foreigners who fight in Mexico's capital come away complaining of the altitude, the pollution, the water, or something else. Vasquez, 121, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, had nothing to complain about; he came away with the WBA junior featherweight title.

If anyone should have avoided Mexico City, it was Perez. The two-division champion is 49-3-2 (31), but 0-2 in the capital of his homeland. Perez, 120, Tijuana, lost the title in his first defense after Vasquez dropped him once in the second round and twice in the third. Referee Bernie Soto stepped in to halt the slaughter at the 2:27-mark of the third at the Palacios de los Deportes.

(In August 1988, Perez beat Vasquez by split decision in Los Angeles. That victory secured him a try at the WBC 118-pound title, which he won in his next fight. Vasquez, too, was a former bantamweight champion.)

The 5'11" Perez seemed sluggish and fragile from the start and was unable to take advantage of his edge in reach. Vasquez won the first round with jabs and hooks, and late in the second felled Perez with a right to the head.

In the third, Vasquez caught Perez with a left to the chin for knockdown number two. The champion rose, but Vasquez subsequently swarmed, and a flurry sent Perez down once more. Again he regained his feet. When Vasquez attacked with a right-left, Soto intervened.

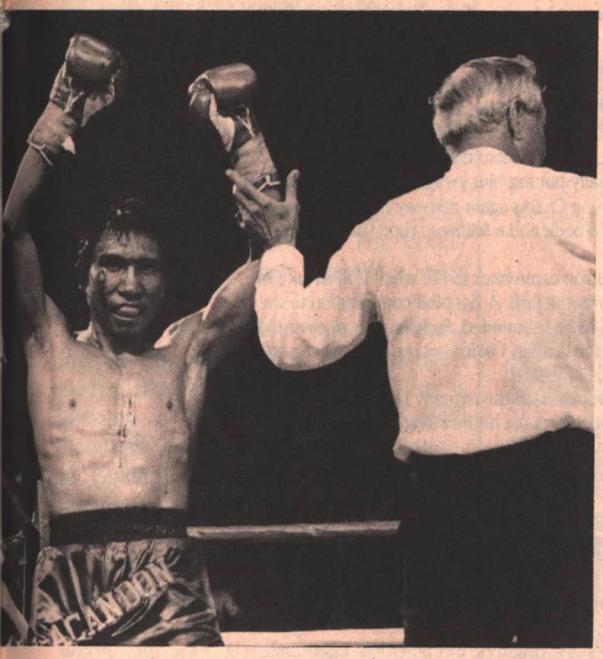
Afterward, Vasquez predicted that Julio Cesar Chavez would be the next Mexican to fall to a Puerto Rican (Angel Hernandez).

The altitude must have finally gotten to him.

(3-27-92)

Bruce Williams

Victor Rabanales Tech. Dec. 9 Yong Hoon Lee,



Rabanales bled, but led on the cards

Inglewood, California—Before a crowd of 6,677 at the Great Western Forum, Mexico's Rabanales, 118, won the vacant WBC bantamweight title over South Korea's previously unbeaten Lee, 118.

The fight was stopped in the ninth round, when referee Henry Elespuru and Dr. Robert Karns determined that Rabanales could not continue. In round eight, the Mexican was unintentionally butted and suffered a wide cut over his right eye. Under WBC rules, the fight went to the cards, with Rabanales emerging victorious by majority decision. Rudy Jordan (United States) scored 85-85, but was outvoted by Cindy Bartin (United States) and Ladislao Sanchez (Venezuela), who scored 85-84 and 87-84, respectively.

Rabanales was crowned as the "interim" champion, and will presumably soon have to defend against Japan's Joichiro Tatsuyoshi, who vacated after undergoing eye surgery.

Rabanales had been unlucky in his first title try, losing a disputed decision to Greg Richardson in May 1991. This time, he received a break; Lee was the stronger and fresher fighter at the finish. The Korean was bloodied as well, having suffered a cut on his right eyelid in round five.

The free-swinging Rabanales started strongly, downing Lee with a pair of wide rights inside the last 10 seconds of round two. It was the fight's only knockdown, and proved critical in the scoring.

Forcing the fight, Lee, 20-1 (11), began to rally in the fourth. Rabanales, 30-10-2 (17), regained control in the sixth by landing a right to the jaw, and Lee was lucky to survive the round. But in a fight of shifting momentum, the Korean rallied once more. The seventh and eighth rounds were his. The eighth-round butt very likely cost him the title.

"All he wanted to do was butt me," Rabanales said afterward. "I would have stopped him, but he kept butting me."

It was an action fight, and The Forum indicated a desire to promote a rematch. If Rabanales and Lee indeed meet again, helmets should be mandatory.

(3-30-92)

David Wood

Thierry Jacob W 12 Daniel Zaragoza,

Calais, France—Cheered on by a hometown crowd, Jacob battered, bloodied, and knocked down Mexico's Zaragoza to win the WBC super bantamweight title by unanimous decision.

In his third try for a world title, the 27-year-old Frenchman, 38-3 (20), forced the action from the start and controlled the first six rounds. Zaragoza, 44-6-2 (21), who was making his third defense, slowed the localite in the middle rounds with body shots and straight lefts.

The ninth round was the best of the fight. Jacob backed Zaragoza to the ropes, and the southpaws went toe to toe. Jacob's hooks proved more lethal, and he opened a cut at the side of Zaragoza's right eye.

Jacob continued to press the action; he floored the champion in the 10th with a left-right combination. Zaragoza, 33, got up quickly, but subsequently sustained another cut, this time over the left eye. Jacob began to openly taunt the champion, whose face was now smeared with his own blood.

The challenger continued to score over the final two rounds, and opened two more cuts. Zaragoza tried to take the offensive in the 12th, but a confident Jacob danced for most of the round, and the Mexican never found the range.

Jacob got the nod by comfortable margins on all three cards. Mickey Vann had it 115-112, Sid Rubenstein 119-108, and Guiseppe Ferrari 118-113.

The Frenchman's first defense will likely come against the top-rated Tracy Patterson.

(3-20-92)

Julio Cesar Chavez KO 5 Angel Hernandez,

Mexico City, Mexico—Hail Cesar; Chavez is still king of the ring. And Hernandez found out it doesn't pay to make the king angry.

Chavez, 138¾, Culiacan, Mexico, raised his remarkable record to 80-0 (69) with his seventh defense of the WBC super lightweight title. Southpaw Hernandez, 139, Rio Pedras, Puerto Rico, 37-1-2 (22), tried constant movement, a busy right jab, and a lot of grabbing. But it all proved for naught.

"He was grabbing me illegally, pushing my head down all the time, and getting away with it," said Chavez, who bled from a small cut on the bridge of his nose. "Everyone is afraid to fight me. But I beat them all. I hope [Hector] Camacho stops being afraid and fights me next."

Representatives of the Puerto Rico Boxing Commission protested the tiny 16-foot ring in the domed El Toreo de Cuatro Caminos. As it turned out, the fight could have been held in a 100-foot ring and Chavez would still have proved superior.

Chavez was content to stalk over the first three rounds. Late in the fourth, Hernandez was repeatedly rocked by lead rights and telling body blows. By the fifth, the challenger was bleeding from the nose and mouth. After Chavez exploded with a well-mixed dozen-punch flurry, referee Arthur Mercante, working his 99th world title fight, ended the bout at the 1:11 mark.

Chavez will stay busy while waiting for a defense vs. Camacho. He has non-title bouts planned for May and June, and says he wants to fight more southpaws to prepare for the "Macho Man."

They better not get him angry.

(4-10-92)

Bruce Williams

Julian Jackson KO 5 Ron Collins,

Mexico City, Mexico—If Hagler was "Marvelous" and Robinson was "Sugar," what, then, is Jackson? "Hallelujah"?

The WBC middleweight champion is on the edge of joining the better fighter in 160-pound history. All that's needed is a suitable challenge—a Terry Norris, a James Toney, a Mike McCallum, or perhaps a Roy Jones—and then for Jackson to get in the first big punch.

In his third defense, Jackson, 158½, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, 44-1 (42), kept active by outlasting a talented but overmatched "Tequila" Collins, 159½, Laporte, Texas, 21-2 (7). The challenger landed a number of good shots to the ever-attacking Jackson. Someday, the 31-year-old champion's defensive shortcomings may cost him.

Jackson kept after his opponent until finally putting him away. A right hurt Collins in the first, but the bell saved him. Jackson stung Collins again midway through the second, and dazed him in the third with a right hook and a followup right that staggered the challenger.

After easing his attack in the fourth, Jackson came back to life when Collins caught him with rights to the body and head early in the fifth. A right-left combination to the head sent Collins flying into the ropes, and as he rebounded, Jackson was all over him. Nine punches, capped by a right, sank the challenger. Collins got up, but Mexican referee Guadalupe Garcia waved it over at 1:37 of the fifth.

How about a nickname of "Hallelujah" Jackson for the strongly religious champion? Sounds appropriate. His Judgment Day punches make his foes sing Jackson's praises—once they've recovered.

(4-10-92)

Bruce Williams

Akinobu Hiranaka KO 1 Edwin Rosario,

Mexico City, Mexico—When Robert Louis Stevenson wrote *The Strange Case Of Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde,* he didn't have Rosario in mind. But the 29-year-old four-time world champion has had a career stranger than fiction.

As a challenger, he has whipped the likes of Livingstone Bramble, Jose Luis Ramirez, and Loreto Garza. But give him a title belt and he can't beat a Juan Nazario or a Hiranaka. Rosario is young by boxing standards, but he's been around a long time, and after being blown out at 1:32 of the first round, cries that he should call it quits are once again being heard.

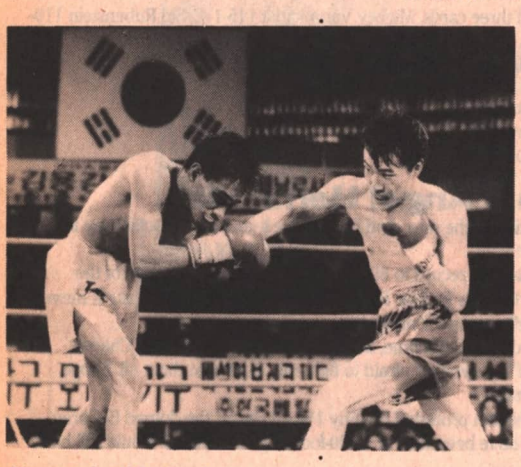
Hiranaka, 139¾, Tokyo, 20-1 (18), was relatively unknown before this, his second title opportunity. He gave then-WBA champion Juan Coggi a good fight three years ago, losing by decision. Since then, injuries and overcautious management had kept him virtually invisible.

Rosario, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico, 37-5 (32), remains a feared warrior because of his big punch. But he never was able to land it. Hiranaka hurt him early with rights to the chin, and Rosario was grabbing more than he was punching. A flurry, capped by a left to the chin and a right uppercut, brought Mexican referee Ernesto Magana to Rosario's rescue.

There was speculation after the fight that Hiranaka might next face Chavez in a unification bout, or perhaps Azumah Nelson, who may jump from 130 pounds. The new champion is more apt to go home and make some lucrative defenses in Japan. He could reign for some time . . . unless he meets a challenger named Rosario.

(4-10-92)

Bruce Williams



Kim crossed, and Penalosa lost

Yong Kang Kim KO 6 Jonathan Penalosa,

Inchon, South Korea—WBA flyweight champion Kim, 111¾, is quite different in style from most Korean fighters. He is skilled boxer but a soft puncher, and as a result, his demolition of previously unbeaten Filipino Penalosa, 111, came as a major surprise. In his second defense, Kim scored two knockdowns. Penalosa was counted out by referee Ernesto Magana at the 2:46 mark.

The challenger, the second oldest of the fighting Penalosa brothers, came into the ring with the reputation of a big puncher, and Kim showed instant respect. Penalosa applied pressure from the start, but Kim's footwork allowed him to avoid any serious trouble. In the fourth, Kim, 25-3 (11), began to fire seemingly harmless punches. The flyweights clinched and wrestled, and both were warned by Magana.

Late in the sixth, they unintentionally cracked heads. Penalosa immediately backtracked, and Kim pinned him to the ropes and acclerated. Penalosa, 15-1-1 (11), dropped to one knee, and upon rising, desperately fought back with roundhouse blows. Kim cleverly kept his distance, and when he landed a perfectly timed one-two, the challenger collapsed.

The judges were Hank Meijers (Netherlands), Pinij Paryadsub (Thailand), and Kazumasa Kuwata (Japan). At the time of the stoppage, Kim led on two of the three cards.

The promoter was Palpal Promotions.

(3-24-92)

Joe Koizumi

Oscar De La Hoya

(Continued from page 37)

Hoya, who was named Boxer of the Year by the USA-ABF in 1991. "I feel like I'm almost in a prison. Like I'm in a camp where, if I go to a party, I would lose everything. But it's really gonna pay off. I believe I'm gonna have more fun than anyone's ever had."

Fun for De La Hoya now is bloodying an opponent's nose or landing a perfect three-punch combination. Fun is winning a gold medal at the 1990 Goodwill Games, and winning a National Golden Gloves title and two U.S. amateur championships.

But it hasn't always been fun. Strictly for their entertainment, De La Hoya's older brother and cousins would make him fight other neighborhood kids when he was barely old enough to count to 10. The fights often ended with Oscar going home in tears. But when he was six, his father, Joel, brought him to the Resurrection Boys Club to learn how to box.

"I remember my father saying [to the other kids], 'You better watch it, I'm gonna take him to the gym and bring him back,' " said De La Hoya.

De La Hoya's parents played instrumental roles in his development as a fighter. His father is the disciplinarian, always pushing him to train and learn about the sport that can someday make him a very rich man.

"He knows I'm gonna be somebody," said De La Hoya. "Since I was six, he's been pushing me every day. He's never missed a day at the gym. We have our little ups and downs, but I know he wants the best for me. That's why I love him."

For comfort, De La Hoya looked to his mother, Cecilia. She was a reassuring presence in a sport that can be frightening to its participants. It was always her voice he heard cheering from ringside. And before his fights, even if Cecilia didn't know a thing about his opponent, she would tell her son, "You're gonna win, I know this guy, he's nothing."

In October 1990, Cecilia died of breast cancer. She was 38. Her last request was that Oscar win a gold medal for her.

"It's affected me," De La Hoya said of his mother's death. "But I started

(Continued on page 54)

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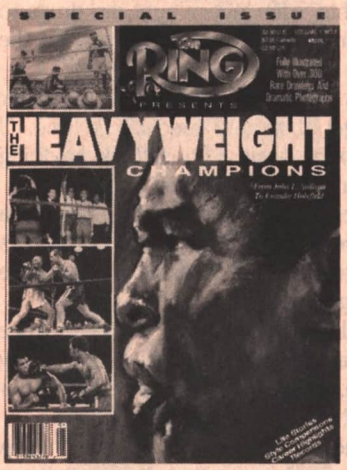

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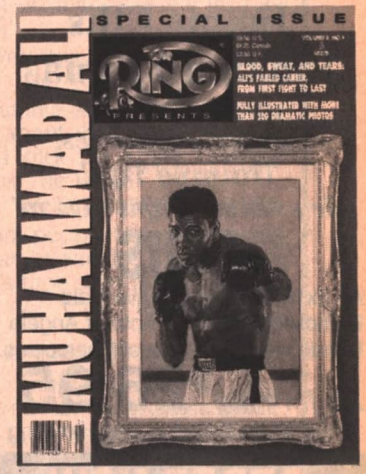

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Oscar De La Hoya

(Continued from page 53)

thinking, *Why not just do it for her?* That was her dream."

De La Hoya used to do his roadwork near a graveyard, but it reminded him too much of his mother. His father persuaded him to run elsewhere, but Cecilia is never far from Oscar's thoughts. After every fight, he drops to one knee and blows a kiss toward the sky.

"It's pushed me more to train harder and get that gold medal," he said. "I am gonna do it. I don't think anything is gonna stop me from doing it."

According to some boxing experts, a gold medal will be only De La Hoya's first stop along a glorious and lucrative boxing journey.

"I think he has a very good chance to win a gold medal," said Shelly Finkel, De La Hoya's adviser. "After that, his future is unlimited."

Bruce Silverglade, who runs Gleason's Gym in New York, and is a former president of the New York Metro-ABF, ranks De La Hoya with the top U.S. Olympic boxers of '76 and '84.

"I think he's an excellent prospect," said Silverglade. "He's a very good technician. If he has the right trainer, he'll make the transition to a pro world champion."

De La Hoya speaks of winning pro world titles in multiple weight classes. While it's not hard to imagine his lithe 5'11" frame carrying 160 pounds, he also has a more subdued passion: He wants to be an architect. He loves putting pencil to paper nearly as much as he enjoys slapping leather on opponents.

"I'll box until I'm 25," he said. "Then I want to go to school, study real hard, and be an architect. I just love it."

Right now, De La Hoya is working on designing a new home for his father. He keeps a notebook of drawings that includes sketches of his U.S. teammates, as well as all-time greats Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and Sugar Ray Robinson. He wants to draw his idol, Alexis Arguello, but hasn't met him yet.

Drawing is a release for De La Hoya. He is the most heralded U.S. amateur fighter since Mark Breland in 1984, and the pressure to bring home a gold medal is intense. But it doesn't stop there.

Breland and Paul Gonzales, who's also from East L.A. and boxed with De La Hoya at the Resurrection, won gold medals in '84, but were disappointments as pros. Then there's Kelcie Banks, 1988's top U.S. amateur fighter, who got starched in the first round of his first Olympic fight.

Last November, De La Hoya tasted defeat for the first time in nearly five years when he lost a 17-13 decision to Germany's Marco Rudolph at the World Championships in Australia. It came in the second round of the tournament, and Rudolph went on to win the 132-pound title. The ghosts of Breland and Banks surely surfaced, but De La Hoya claims the loss was a relief.

"After that, all the pressure was over," he said. "I was kind of happy. When they raised his hand, I felt the pressure leave me. People thought I couldn't lose. Now that I lost, all the pressure came off, and my performances are getting better. It made me really focused."

Helping De La Hoya cope with the pressure is Finkel, who has maintained a relationship with the fighter for two years. Finkel manages world champions Evander Holyfield, Pernell Whitaker, and Meldrick Taylor, and is a good judge of talent. He first saw De La Hoya fight two years ago in Las Vegas, and was impressed by how serious the teenager was.

"He was very mature in his approach to the sport," recalled Finkel. "He trained very hard."

Last year, De La Hoya was flown to Whitaker's camp in Virginia Beach to train under George Benton and Lou Duva. During the visit, he sparred regularly with IBF junior lightweight champion John-John Molina.

De La Hoya was once a classic standup boxer, firing his punches from a distance. Benton's influence can already be seen; De La Hoya is much more aggressive, loading up with the left hook and steadily attacking the body. In other words, he's fighting more like a pro.

"I thought that, because he is a champion, he should train with someone who could make him a better champion," explained Finkel. "Someone who had a reputation for training champions."

Finkel describes his relationship with De La Hoya as that of a close friend. Of course, when De La Hoya turns pro, Finkel will have the inside track on signing him.

"We'll map something out," the man-

ager said.

There are plenty of promoters and managers who have designs on De La Hoya's future. He's already received some astounding offers from local businessmen who are looking for a quick thrill and a taste of glory.

"I get a lot of tempting offers that Shelly advises me on," said De La Hoya. "I see Shelly as a very good friend. My father and my family love him. To me, he's the best manager out there."

A gold medal awaits in Barcelona. Should De La Hoya capture it, Finkel will help turn it into millions of dollars. But as the Games approach, the pressure continues to build. And it seems to be coming from all directions.

De La Hoya wants desperately to win for his mother. He also knows the gold will build the foundation of his father's new house. Moreover, the gang members in East L.A. want him to win it for the neighborhood. But above all, and perhaps most indicative of the kind of competitor he'll be as a pro, De La Hoya is out to prove that he, and not Marco Rudolph, is the best 132-pound amateur in the world.

"It was my fault that I lost that fight," De La Hoya said. "I was thinking nobody could beat me. It got to my head. He knows it. When I see him, I can see it in his eyes. I'm looking forward to fighting him; he's made for my hook. I want to fight him on NBC so all the world can watch the rematch. I want them to introduce him as a world champion so I can take that title."

It should be the first of many titles to come. ■

George Foreman

(Continued from page 45)

must decide which of these three courses to pursue:

● **Retirement:** Following Foreman's near-slam dunking on the UNLV campus, a quiet walk into the sunset was both promised and dismissed. That should be an indication of how difficult any decision about the future will be.

"I'm not interested in doing more two-fight deals, or fighting any more of these young tigers," Foreman told *Newsday*. "I want another title shot, but I'm sticking to my timetable to be out by the end of 1992."

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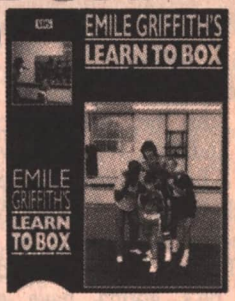

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George Foreman

(Continued from page 55)

While Foreman was at least acknowledging how pretty the beckoning sunset can be, his promoters, Bob Arum and Ron Weathers, were talking about a fight against a powerhitter like Riddick Bowe or Tommy Morrison.

"George ain't gonna be doing this much longer," Weathers said, "but the fights he's gonna have are gonna count."

Foreman's ego may be the healthiest part of him these days, but if he retires, he doesn't have to fear fading away like the print on his newspaper clippings from the '68 Olympics. He has been offered a role in a sitcom, he can do more TV commentary (then again, let's hope not), and he's in demand for commercials and public speaking. And he'll retire after having made about $25-million during his comeback. If a nest egg of that size ever rolled down the side of a mountain, everything within 100 miles of the foot of it would be declared a disaster area.

● **Waiting for one last title shot:** The Rev got revved up against Holyfield in April 1991, and turned in a spectacular showing. But he absorbed consistent punishment. How damaging that fight had been to the body of a fortysomething fighter wasn't evident until the Stewart fight 11 months later. The post-Holyfield Foreman moved his arms in slow-motion and seemed unable to get out of the way of even the most telegraphed punches.

After this outing, nobody would buy Foreman-Holyfield II, though it probably wouldn't matter, anyway. Insulted that Foreman sued him for breaking the contract for a rematch last fall, Holyfield has said that he won't grant the preacher another shot. That has left Foreman hinting that he'll retire if Holyfield beats Holmes on June 19, but he'll face Holmes if the *other* heavyweight fossil pulls an upset and wins the title.

For Foreman, hopes of one last invite to the prom may be wishful thinking. If Holmes proves himself to be good enough to defeat Ray Mercer *and* Holyfield, it will be extremely difficult to market the worn-out Foreman as a legitimate threat. What appeal does a matchup of relics have if one of the relics is perceived to be a batting-practice fastball?

"There is very little appeal for Holmes-Foreman after the way Foreman looked in the Stewart fight," says promoter Lou Falcigno, one of boxing's foremost authorities on pay-per-view television. "Financially, I just don't see Holmes-Foreman being a big fight."

● **Fighting a contender:** If Foreman really wanted to retire, he would have done so after looking in the mirror on the morning after in Las Vegas. As each day passes, the soreness diminishes, and the bruises fade a little more. He will probably convince himself that his opponent had merely been underestimated, and that Stewart is just as tough as Riddick Bowe, Michael Moorer, and Lennox Lewis. The press, Foreman will insist, should have been smart enough to recognize that.

Even if Holyfield derails Holmes, as expected, the hunch here is that Foreman *will* fight again. What he won't do is return to the USA Network for $50,000 paydays against Bigfoot Martin. As often as he's been mentioning retirement, he's also been chatting up a showdown with Bowe. Foreman's wife, Joan, wants her husband to quit, but she wanted that after the fight with Holyfield. Despite Big George's jokes about how she'll kick his butt, her wishes will be a non-factor.

A Foreman title shot may be hard to sell, but a crossroads shootout with one of the young guns wouldn't be. Only one man has kayoed Foreman, and that was Muhammad Ali. The incentive for the young guns is tremendous, and the storyline is intriguing. That's why an HBO or a Showtime would be all- too-willing to make it happen.

"As a friend, I would like to see George retire, yet it's George's place to decide whether or not he wants to retire," says Ross Greenburg, vice president and executive producer of HBO Sports.

When asked if his network would air Foreman-Bowe or Foreman-Moorer, Greenburg added, "I don't know if George would want to take that kind of a risk for less money, but sure, they are attractive fights. We would be interested."

Before the war with Stewart, Roy Foreman, George's brother, leaked to the press the identity of another possible rival for his brother: "We've been trying to get Elvis. He's been dead long enough now."

If you're still chuckling, you, like George Foreman, still don't get it. Foreman will be back, but the competition will be a lot more lively than old Elvis. It will, however, be a good idea if the millions who've embraced Big George as their surrogate preacher, or grandfather, or uncle, start singing "Don't Be Cruel" to his pool of opponents, and start booking their rooms at the Heartbreak Hotel.

Elvis just got his face on a stamp, but it is Foreman who seems destined to get licked, but good.■

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Harry Greb

(Continued from page 47)

hackle of white hair. In John McNulty's felicitous phrase, he looked like a choir boy who had been in bad company for 30 or 40 years.

Bimstein shrugged when pressed for an opinion of Greb. The fight game breeds a certain reticence. In this circle, it is improvident to gush. But Whitey finally said, "I don't put nobody over Greb."

Back in those days, another of the cognoscenti who knew Greb was Jack Moore, an alert, keen-eyed septuagenarian. Moore, who had spent 50 years managing fighters, worked in Greb's corner, and also against him when he was training dashing, debonair Mike McTigue—he of the white silk tights and green shamrocks.

Moore used to hang around with Reddy Mason, Greb's manager, at the old Times Square Hotel on Eighth Avenue and 43rd Street. Greb at the time was training for a fight with Tiger Flowers at Jack O'Brien's gym on 51st Street, and they sent Moore up to Har-

lem to scout the Tiger in his lair.

In spite of a spotty record, Flowers was a cute fighter and a spoiler, and as a southpaw, Moore figured the Tiger had a 25 percent advantage. When Moore reported back that Flowers was training hard for the fight, Greb, who despised clever tactics, chose to ignore the intelligence and continued to train on his idea of haute cuisine—hot dogs and root beer.

As it turned out, Moore was right and Greb was wrong. Harry was still throwing leather like "The Iron City Express," but his punches were wild and his attack kept falling apart. In the corner, Moore told Greb he had to knock Flowers out to win. But it was too late. The decision went to Flowers.

Gunboat Smith, an ex-heavyweight who once himself milled with Greb, was the third man that night. Later on that evening, the Greb partisans from Pittsburgh, armed with empty bottles and other niceties, accused Gunboat of jobbing their boy. Moore quieted them by saying that if any one of the officials had voted for Greb, it had been Gunboat. Again Moore was right.

Greb's fights were as often as not waged against the referee as well as the other fighter. He was frequently, and quite rightly, accused of having an educated thumb for an opponent's eye. Greb's hands and feet were so fast that he could gouge, rake his laces over the hapless victim's face, bite, kick, and butt, all at a speed that left the customers—and the referee—gaping at a masterpiece of unlicensed savagery.

The spectators loved it, and feelings used to run so high among the seatholders when he fought that it almost always terminated in a mass brawl among opposing factions. Greb never squawked when, in a fight with Kid Norfolk in 1921, he was permanently blinded in one eye. He fought at least five more years with the sight in his good eye so impaired that he could hardly make out the opposite corner. It needn't be said that this did not help him when he was behind the wheel of a car.

After Greb's death, the fighter's personal physician, Dr. Carl S. McGivern, broke a five-year silence to confirm that Greb had been blind in his right eye for that length of time. He had advised the fighter to have the eye removed, but Greb refused.

Greb beat the best around at catchweights. And not just once, but any number of times. He fought Fay Kaiser nine times; he fought Chuck Wiggins seven times. There were others he never sidestepped: Tom Gibbons, Battling Levinsky, Jeff Smith, and Jack Dillon. Greb once boxed an exhibition with the great Jack Johnson at Kid Howard's gym in Chicago. After it was over, Jack said simply, "You're the fastest man your size I ever seen."

Even Doc Kearns, who was managing Jack Dempsey, refused to let his tiger in a ring with Greb. They did spar on two occasions. The first time was when Dempsey was getting ready for his title defense against Billy Miske in Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Greb ripped into Dempsey, punching the heavyweight champion as he pleased, until Kearns finally threw him out of the ring for being too rough.

As Jack Moore remembered Greb, he was a child in a lot of ways. Not a child of nature, like Battling Siki, who actually had the temerity to think he could beat Mike McTigue in Dublin on St. Paddy's Day, but "like a little boy," as Moore described him. Greb was afraid of the dark; he had to sleep with a light on in his room. But inside the ring he was fearless. He loved to fight, and he loved to make love.

The first alone would separate him from today's slim pickings in the ring. Compared to boxing's present lightly armed flotilla, Greb was a destroyer. He was a dandy himself, but he never would have countenanced the effete types with gold chains and earrings, or surround himself with accountants and investment counselors, and concern himself with ancillary rights. Nor would he have thought of wearing a T-shirt advertising some Atlantic City casino or some Catskill spa.

Greb's tastes were more toward candy-striped shirts and flashy suits that accentuated his shoulder construction. As has been noted, he was unusually fussy about how he looked. And yet old pictures hanging over bars in Pittsburgh saloons show him to have had a typical fighter's face. Scar tissue and lumps have crooked both eyebrows, the nose is misshapen, the hair coarse and brilliantined. His head cocked behind a glove, he looks out at the world with the mad, marigold eyes of a hawk.

Greb was born in Pittsburgh, a town that had turned out more great fighters than any place since Athens. Again, contrary to legend, his name was not Berg spelled backwards, as many people thought. He was of German-Irish ancestry and grew up in the strict, respectable household of his father, Pius Greb. His profession was completely shunned by his parents, and there is no report of their ever having seen him fight.

Greb first started boxing in the small local clubs around Pittsburgh in 1915, and was discovered by George Engel, who became his first manager. It was only after Engel had sent him home half-a-dozen times that Harry convinced him he could fight by whipping the more experienced fighters around the gym. Engel was convinced that Greb's unorthodox, whirling-dervish style would never make him a fighter. Later on, the two fell out, and Greb did most of his fighting for Red Mason.

During the years that Greb fought for Engel and Mason, and briefly for Jimmy Johnston, the record book lists him as having some 300 fights. The real total is more likely twice that. Mason would have his fighters working for $250 or $25,000. He kept them busy. In those days they skipped from town to town so fast that it was impossible for the recordkeepers to keep up with them.

It was nothing for Greb to fight every other week, with an exhibition or two thrown in on the side. And sometimes, if an exhibition was with a beakbuster like Chuck Wiggins, it turned into a runaway slugging match when one of the principles thought the other too liberal with an elbow in the clinches.

In 12 years of fighting, Greb is best remembered for his fight with Tunney, in which he soundly drubbed the "Fighting Marine," and for his title defense against Mickey Walker. The bloodbath was Tunney's single defeat in an 11-year career. Greb left Tunney so badly hurt that the 24-year-old light heavyweight had to spend a week in bed recovering; he had lost two quarts of blood in the 15 rounds. Tunney, however, learned something from the fight, and later got more than even by beating Greb three times.

Everything Greb did was larger than life, and his fight with Walker was another example of his guts and guile. The fight was held in 1925, in what a scenarist would call the twilight of Greb's career. His eyesight had gotten progressively worse, and in the months preceding the fight, Harry had let himself get comparatively stale, out of shape, and overweight. This time, however, he knew he had a fight on his hands. Walker was moving up into another division, but he could punch, and

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Harry Greb

(Continued from page 57)

was sleek and fit.

Greb pitched camp in Manhasset on Long Island, quite a few miles outside New York City. But no matter; he still managed to do most of his training at night in the cabarets and among the demireps of Manhattan. To lose weight, Harry proceeded to reduce the way jockeys used to in the old days: He limited himself to small quantities of liquids, and flushed himself out with Pluto Water, a very severe emetic.

Walker weighed in at 152 pounds and Greb at 159. Walker was typically loose; Greb was drawn and tight. The fight for the middleweight title was held on July 2, 1925, at the Polo Grounds. It was what James P. Dawson of *The New York Times* called "the greatest fistic carnival ever seen in a local ring." On the same card was Harry Wills, the black New Orleans heavyweight, vs. Charlie Weinert, and Dave Shade vs. Jimmy Slattery. Proceeds were to go to the Italian Hospital Fund.

According to the *Times* man, the Polo Grounds was "a great fistic mecca, and the pugilistic pilgrims came from all points of the compass." And, he added waspishly, "Everything was done for the inconvenience of the press." He was alluding to the fact that management had held up reporters at the gate while looking for Doc Kearns, Walker's manager, whom they expected to sneak in dressed like a newspaperman. That would have amused Doc, who, at that time, was *persona non grata* with the boxing commission.

The first five rounds were all Walker's. He beat Greb at his own game, with speed, bulling him around and throwing punches from every angle and direction. Walker threw all he had in his arsenal, fighting with everything but guns and knives.

At the start of the sixth, Greb shuffled out of his corner, unmarked above the neck, and in an unforgettable moment, exploded like a fragmentation bomb. His speed was electrifying, as he backed Walker into a corner, hooking with his wild left. George Engel was quoted as saying, "Greb was like an exploding firecracker."

The sixth was the turning point. Walker rallied in the 11th, but the momentum swung back to Greb in the 13th, and he came close to knocking down Walker in the 14th. Greb won eight of 15 rounds, with two even.

According to *The Times*, "Greb was Greb last night. He was too fast, too tireless, too resourceful, too immune to Walker's punishing blows."

Some fighters, like racehorses, have only one turn of speed. Not Greb. According to Engel, Harry could start out in the first fighting like a wild man—and finish the 15th fighting like *10* wild men.

Greb was a pug in the honorable sense of the word. Tough and mean, he was a mannerless streetfighter. He was just a fighter from the moment he stepped onto the scales until the lights went out. Small wonder he was the idol of people like Hemingway.

Whitey Bimstein had put it accurately when he said, "I don't put nobody over Greb." ■

Ken Merritt is a freelance writer based in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Carnival of Champions

(Continued from page 34)

● Sixto Escobar of Puerto Rico, the world bantamweight champion, vs. Baltimore's Harry Jeffra.

Joe Louis aside, it's doubtful that any four champions could have provided a more general appeal. The champions and challengers created an international flavor, and Jacobs was hoping to pack the Polo Grounds with more than 60,000 fanatic nationals from the city's melting pot. Mother Nature cooperated with a warm, Indian Summer day. The Carnival of Champions could not fail.

"I wouldn't be surprised if [the gate] passes $300,000," Jacobs said several days before the Carnival. When advanced ticket sales reached $250,000, Jacobs was sure he had a winner.

On fight night, Thil and Apostoli were in their dressing rooms by 7 p.m., more than 45 minutes before the scheduled start of their bout. Meanwhile, Jacobs was roaming ringside, checking ticket stubs and showing dignitaries, of which there were many, to their seats. Governors from eight states were in attendance. Joe DiMaggio and Lou Gehrig topped the list of celebrities, and Farr and Louis were announced to the crowd.

(Continued on page 60)

The RING '60s & '70s ISSUES

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

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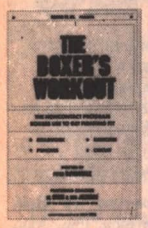

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Carnival of Champions

(Continued from page 58)

But as Uncle Mike scanned the Polo Grounds, he began to realize that his Carnival of Champions was not going to be the huge success he had anticipated. The stadium was half-empty.

There had been an omen several days before fight night, when the powerful New York State Athletic Commission suddenly refused to sanction the Thil-Apostoli match as a world title fight. (The NYSAC had chosen to recognize Freddie Steele, who had knocked out Ken Overlin several days earlier.) Nevertheless, the Thil-Apostoli bout, a classic matchup between a veteran champion and a young challenger, was not without intrigue.

Apostoli worked as a ranch hand, plasterer, sheet metal worker, refinery tooler, vinegar maker, and bellhop before finding success in the ring. He had a rugged matinee idol's look, and star potential. The flabby Thil, on the other hand, was fighting back the years.

Yet it was the champion, the ring lights twinkling off his bald head, who controlled the first eight rounds. Thil quickly recovered from a third-round knockdown, and with his crab-like style and high guard, he crowded Apostoli. He staggered the challenger with a left hook to the head near the end of the eighth round, but by no means was Apostoli finished. His hooks and right uppercuts to the body were beginning to weaken the Frenchman.

The fight turned midway through the ninth round, when the challenger caught Thil over the right eye with a hook. The champion's skin split open, and blood poured down his face. Apostoli continued his assault, landing blows at will about the champion's head and body. A tremendous hook staggered Thil just before the bell.

During the rest period, commission doctor William Walker examined Thil's eye.

"If this gets any worse, you stop it," he told referee Arthur Donovan.

Donovan did just that, 44 seconds into round 10, after Apostoli had reopened the cut. The former bellhop was barely out of the ring before he began calling for a bout with Steele.

"You can bet we're not going to take the challenger's cut in that one," said Apostoli's manager, Larry White.

(In January 1938, Apostoli would stop Steele in nine rounds.)

Jacobs couldn't have asked for a better bout to open the championship card. The fans were getting their money's worth. He just wished there were more of them.

Ross and Garcia were next through the ropes. It was their third meeting, with Ross having won the first two fights by decision. Garcia was a two-fisted mauler with a big bolo right hand, which he had developed while chopping sugar cane in his native Philippine Islands. Yet Ross, who flaunted one of boxing's best chins, was favored to retain the 147-pound title. And he did, but not without a struggle.

What slowed the champion was his left hand, which he had injured a week before the fight. He returned to his corner after the second round and told mananger Art Winch, "The honeymoon's over. I've cracked up my hand."

Yet he managed to frustrate Garcia for the first 11 rounds by bobbing and weaving and stepping aside every time the Filipino tried his bolo. And with his right hand, he managed to open a cut above Garcia's left eye.

But Garcia had a few moments of his own. In the third, he doubled Ross over with a punch to the stomach, and in the sixth, had him in trouble again. By the 12th round, Ross was tiring. His right hand could take him only so far, and Garcia was beginning to find openings. Ross was hurt in both the 12th and 13th rounds, and the bell was all that saved him in the 14th. As he sat in his corner with both his eyes closed, Winch shouted, "Just three more minutes to go."

In the final round, Ross was unable to lift his arms or move his legs. He was dazed, and he spit blood whenever he could, but he would not go down. He finished ahead on all three cards, and left the ring with the title.

It appeared as if the Carnival of Champions was going to live up to its hype as boxing's greatest night. Two exciting title fights, with two more to go. And best of all, Ambers was still to fight.

The lightweight champion was clearly the crowd's favorite fighter on the card. Following Montanez, he danced into the ring to a loud ovation. He could not, however, deliver a performance worthy of the night.

In the fifth round, Ambers landed a looping right to the mouth. The challenger rocked back and began spitting blood. Ambers failed to finish him off. It was the sole highlight of the fight.

Veteran boxing writer Hype Igoe described Ambers' effort as "a great display of boxing skill." Most other ringsiders called it boring. Ambers won the majority decision—referee John Marto called it a draw—and he entertained reporters afterward by singing in his dressing room.

"Let me go out there and fight 15 more rounds," he said. "Why, I had harder fights with my sparring partner down at Madam Bey's."

As the night air grew colder, it became easier for the fans to forget the action of the Thil-Apostoli and Ross-Garcia bouts. It was getting late, and Ambers-Montanez had done nothing to keep the crowd energized. It's often said that a boxer is only as good as his last bout. If that's true for boxing cards, as well, the Carnival of Champions was forgettable, because Escobar-Jeffra wasn't much of a fight at all.

The champion landed only one punch in the first round, and that came at the 2:40 mark. The next 14 rounds were much the same. Jeffra effectively used his left hand and some fancy footwork, and took Escobar's crown by unanimous decision. Escobar blamed his tentative performance on the dropping temperature, and the fact that he had been dressed by 8 p.m. and had to wait three hours to fight.

The bout's sole highlight came at the start of the 10th round, when Escobar tried to psych himself to victory.

"Well, I guess I'll knock you out this time," he told Jeffra.

"You couldn't hit me with a handful of peas," was the challenger's reply.

Unfortunately for those in attendance, Jeffra was right.

When the crowd finally filed out of the Polo Grounds, it was past midnight. But Jacobs' day was far from over; he hurried into an office to count the receipts. As he had suspected, the take was nowhere near that of Louis-Farr. He needed $228,000 to break even. He netted about $198,000.

Uncle Mike had been hurt by two factors: the 32,600 empty seats, and the $82,500 he had guaranteed to Ambers' manager, Al Weill, who threatened Jacobs' claim to the title of the shrewdest man in boxing. Ambers received $65,000 for his effort. Easy money.

The money from the film and radio rights saved Jacobs from a financial disaster.

"I figured I've lost a few dollars," he said the following day. "But it was worth it."

The bottom line aside, Jacobs had erased any doubts that he was the top promoter in the game. He announced plans for another Carnival, to be held the following June. But it would never come off. Jacobs was too smart to make the same mistake twice. He had learned that lighter-weight title defenses, no matter how many of them were offered, couldn't equal the appeal of a good heavyweight fight. And remember, he still had Louis.

Jacobs' reign lasted another 10 years, until failing health forced him into retirement. During his 13-year boxing career, he grossed $25.5-million, drew more than five-million fans, and promoted 73 title bouts. He personally promoted, or was associated with the promotion of, every multi-million-dollar gate through 1947.

But only once did he put togther a night like the Carnival of Champions: 55 rounds of boxing, two world titles changing hands, and no knockdowns, but plenty of black eyes and blood.

"Jacobs gave the party," wrote one scribe. "He didn't break even, but he walked away with the satisfaction of knowing that he took a risky gamble on the biggest party he has ever tossed, and he didn't get hurt. Anyway, he gave them something new."

There has never been another night like September 23, 1937. For all the card's faults, Jacobs had left a unique mark, and one that couldn't be measured by dollar signs. How ironic that on one of the greatest nights of his career, Uncle Mike didn't make a nickle. ■

Roger Mooney, a frequent contributor to* The Ring, *is a freelance writer based in South Huntington, New York.

Iran Barkley

(Continued from page 21)

when you think about that possibility for a while, it can get a little scary. But it makes me fight that much harder."

As the opening bell clanged, the only world that existed for Barkley was between the ropes. And its only other inhabitant was Hearns. Barkley attacked the Hit Man over the first three rounds, burying his shaved head into Hearns' chest, then smothering him with lefts and rights to the shoulders, elbows, midsection, and head.

With every blow, Barkley reminded himself of the fates that allowed Hearns to make millions of dollars during the 1980s, while he struggled through $5,000 paydays.

"I'm not saying I deserved the money Tommy got," Barkley said. "But I'm good at what I do. And I give people a show. That's why I always thought I should've gotten a bigger share of the pie over the years."

What also bothered Barkley was that so many people thought his June 1988 kayo of Hearns had been nothing more than a fluke. Even Hearns thought so. Barkley was determined to make ringsiders, and particularly Hearns, believers. Every punch he threw in the first three rounds carried anger and resentment.

Hearns fought back valiantly in round four. He struck with two hooks before connecting with a looping right to Barkley's face. As the blows crashed against Barkley, he had a flashback.

A few days before the fight, he was praying at Las Vegas' Victory Baptist Church.

"I was just sitting there chillin'," he said, "and out of nowhere a friend of Hearns walked up to me and said, 'You're going to lose.' Imagine someone coming up to you in church and saying something like that. Wow! The meanness just poured out of me. I said to him, 'You don't know what you just did. *Tommy is finished.*' "

That meanness gripped Barkley once again, and he countered Hearns' right with a hook to the chin. Hearns dropped clean, rose at referee Mills Lane's count of three, and took the mandatory eight-count. From that moment on, Barkley realized the rounds ahead would be a series of death struggles because the knockdown would make Hearns a more determined fighter. But the challenger wasn't imtimidated. He loves a good fight, and this one was only going to get better.

"I have this crazy madness in me," Barkley explained. "Outside the ring, I'm a nice guy. But inside the ring, I'm nasty. I mean, I'm really nasty."

But nastiness alone was hardly enough to sustain Barkley's fire. As he does for all of his fights, he drew on harsh memories to carry him the rest of the way.

(Continued on page 63)

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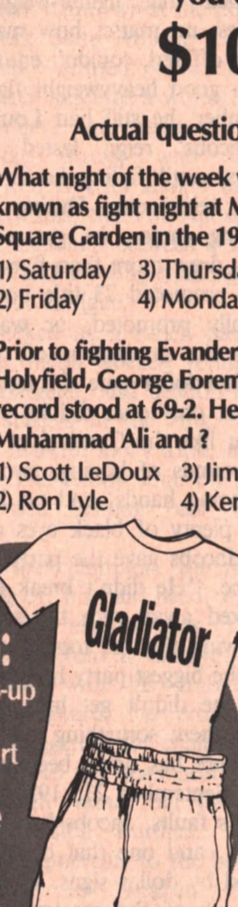

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Iran Barkley

(Continued from page 61)

"I thought back to my days when I belonged to the Black Spades [street gang]," he said. "Those days, more than anything, were periods of great anger for me. Every day was the same. I'd sit around and watch the drug dealers do their thing. And when I got bored, we'd go around beating people up, stabbing people, and hitting them with lead pipes. I'm not proud of those days, but thinking back to them only gets me angry. And I used that anger in my fight with Tommy."

To make sure Barkley remained focused, trainer Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, who came from the meannest streets of Brooklyn, offered further motivation. Refreshed and reassured, The Blade bulled past Hearns' jab, and kept landing to the head and body.

"He's *dead,"* Muhammad bellowed at Barkley after round seven. "He's dead. His legs are gone."

The words sent an additional surge of energy through Barkley's body, and he continued to brawl. Muhammad, who once held the same title Barkley would win, realizes a trainer must do a lot more than just tell his fighter what punches to throw.

"A trainer's got to get into his fighter's head, deep into his head," he said. "He's got to find out what makes him tick. And when he does, he'll know how to press his fighter's button. I know how to press Iran's button. I reminded him against Tommy that he's not only fighting for himself, but his family as well. I told him that we don't want our kids growing up in ghettos or getting shot and killed. And we don't want them robbing banks or shooting drugs, either.

"Not that Iran needs to be reminded, but I told him over and over how dangerous it is on the streets. That there are people walking around with the same automatic weaponry our soldiers used in the Gulf War. I asked him if he wanted his kids to be around that. Of course he didn't. He's got three beautiful daughters, and he only wants the best for them. Once that thought kicked in, he went right after his guy. And it didn't matter that his opponent was Thomas Hearns."

No matter how much Barkley tried

(Continued on page 64)

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Iran Barkley

(Continued from page 63)

to force his will on Hearns, the 33-year-old Hit Man wouldn't quit. In the later rounds, however, Hearns punched only in spurts, and Barkley was able to walk through his jab and pop the champion some more.

At the end of round 11, Muhammad was certain that Barkley was going to win. Just to make sure his fighter was still inspired, he poked his head through the ropes and shouted further entreaties. But The Blade didn't hear him.

"That's because the spiritual voices of my father and my brothers were talking to me," Barkley recalled. "There was barely enough room for Eddie to speak."

Muhammad looked deep into Barkley's eyes and, in a booming voice, demanded that he acknowledge him.

"Now, push that monkey back," Muhammad shouted. "You're the new f____ champ. Let's go, baby!"

Barkley rose from his stool and glared at Hearns.

"I knew I had him beat," he said. "Knew I had him beat as early as the sixth. But I didn't go crazy. Eddie kept me focused. And while it's great to have so much emotion to draw strength from, if you don't keep it under control, you forget the strategy and could lose the fight. That's why Eddie's there. To make sure I stay within myself at all times."

Barkley, 29-7 (17), outboxed Hearns, 50-4-1 (40), in round 12 and won the fight on two of the three cards. Jerry Roth (114-113) and Chuck Giampa (115-113) voted for The Blade, while Lou Tabat (114-113) had Hearns ahead.

By beating Hearns, Barkley added the WBA light heavyweight title to the IBF super middleweight crown he won in January. (After knocking out Hearns in 1988, he briefly reigned as WBC middleweight champion.)

"And I'm getting a fourth title before I'm through," Barkley promised. "Just watch."

Confidence has always been among Barkley's strengths. Even before the Hearns fight, he was certain of victory.

"From the first day I laid eyes on Tommy, I knew he'd be mine," Barkley had said. "Anyone who's in the ring with me is mine. The only way to get past my fists is to beat me mentally. And that wasn't going to happen, especially now. See, Tommy had his time. Now it's my time. And I plan on hanging around for a while." ■

Larry Holmes

(Continued from page 25)

the decision.

Mercer gave me the opportunity to show people new things, and give them a look they've never seen from me. It wasn't that Mercer was bad, it's just that I was good. I'm smarter than the average fighter out there today. The Mercer fight showed that my hand speed is still there. My power is still there, too, and I can throw—and land—combinations.

I think the loss of speed and the slowing down of reflexes has a lot to do with the way you live. Living in the fast lane can take its toll. But I've never abused myself. Some people compare this fight to my fight with Muhammad Ali. But Ali was always on the go. And he didn't allow himself enough time to recuperate between fights. I'm 100 times better at 42 than Ali was at 38, when he fought me.

I took five tuneup fights to get ready for Mercer. I was able to sharpen my skills. Not like when I fought Mike Tyson, when I came in cold from a two-year layoff and had only two months to prepare for the best heavyweight in the world. I'm ready for this fight.

All of the pressure is on Holyfield. It's always going to be there because he didn't fight Mike Tyson. Now he's the one in the no-win situation. If he wins, they'll say I was an old man. If he loses, they'll say that he was nothing more than a blown-up light heavyweight.

But I don't want anyone to take anything away from Holyfield, because if they do, then they'll be taking something away that I've worked hard for. The man's a tiger. He's been the heavyweight champion for almost two years. It doesn't matter who Holyfield beat to win the title. No one's ever beaten Evander. And if he beats me, I'll congratulate him. I'll tell these young guys that he's a bad dude, and they better be ready when they fight him. But I don't think I'll have to say that.

Evander's taken some crap for the guys he's fought so far. But he's smart taking the fights that he has. He has put a lot of money in the bank, and that's what it's all about. If he gets past me, if he wants to continue and fight these guys, fine. But I don't think that Riddick Bowe or Lennox Lewis or any of these young guys are a threat. Not to Holyfield, myself, or even Ray Mercer. To be honest, I think that Ray's the best of these guys. He's the only one of them that's willing to fight tough competition.

Bowe and his manager, Rock Newman, are complaining that I'm fighting Evander. They offered me $3-million to fight Bowe. I never saw the money. Everyone knows that I'm not a Tony Tubbs. And I thought Tubbs kicked Bowe's ass. He just didn't get the decision.

Bowe and Newman can talk all the trash they want. What I'd be doing if I was Bowe is trying to fight the best fighters out there, to get the recognition and the experience. The only guys who are going to give him that are Razor Ruddock, Mercer, and the other top contenders.

All these young guys are greedy; they want a title shot without fighting anybody. And they want to get paid these incredible purses. When I fought Kenny Norton for the title in 1978, I got $300,000. When you get the chance to fight for the title, you take what they give you. You can dictate the terms when *you're* the champion. For our fight, Holyfield is getting $18.5-million, and I'm getting $7-million. What am I supposed to say? "No way, give me 10-million"? Then they'll tell me to go to hell. I'm satisfied with $7-million. And if I knock Holyfield out, I'll be getting $20-million for my next fight. Bowe and Newman made a bunch of demands on Holyfield and blew it. So I thank them for giving me this opportunity.

Holyfield has said that "Larry Holmes is not the master. I've got the masters in George Benton and Lou Duva." I've been around the old guys, too. But I got my experience and learned my lessons from masters *inside* the ring. Guys like Ali, Frazier, and Norton. I've got moves that Evander has never seen. So I don't need these old trainers around me. All I need is a guy to put Vaseline on me, put water in my mouth, and give me a few pointers during the fight. You don't have to program me to do different things the way they do Holyfield. I know what I'm doing. If I did everything the way people thought I should, I wouldn't have won the heavyweight title in the

(Continued on page 66)

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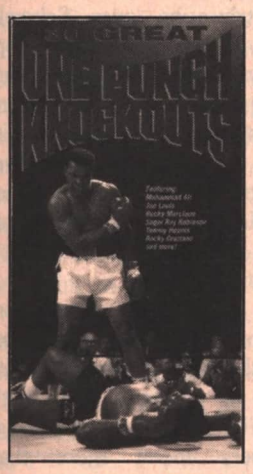

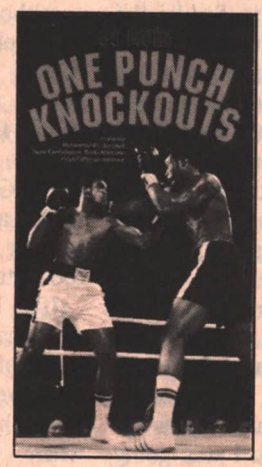

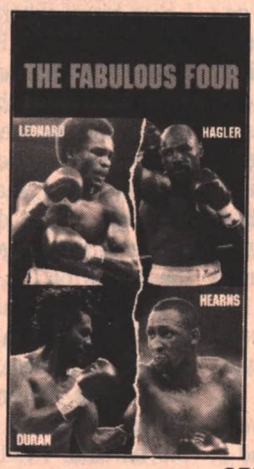

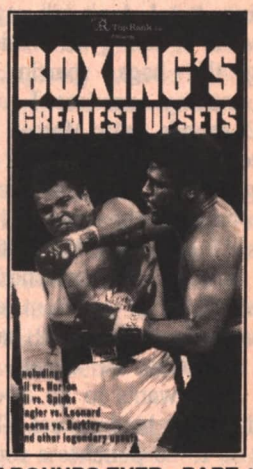

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Larry Holmes

(Continued from page 64)

first place.

I'm not going to punish myself in training for this fight. I know what has to be done. I do roadwork in the morning, but I don't kill myself. I do my work in the gym: shadowboxing, hitting the bags, sparring, jumping rope, and my exercises. I was able to go 12 rounds with Mercer because I trained to go 12 rounds. For that fight, I weighed 232, which was fine. I think that because of the summer heat in Las Vegas, I'll be a little bit lighter for this fight. But I'm not concerned with my weight. I'll be in excellent shape.

I won't have to go 12 hard rounds with Holyfield. I'll dictate my own pace. If he wants to go all-out for 12 rounds, that's his business. I'll be averaging 50 to 60 punches a round. And I land a very high percentage. I don't throw punches to miss.

Mercer played into my hands. I knew he would, because he's a warrior. Holyfield will try to box and stay on the outside, but sooner or later, I know he's going to come inside and fight. And that's where he makes his mistakes. He did it against Bert Cooper, and that's where he'll do it against me. Evander has a lot to learn yet. I saw him in trouble several times against Foreman and Cooper. I'm a better fighter than Foreman, and I'm *much* better than Cooper.

Fighting in Vegas doesn't bother me. I was bitter when I lost to Spinks the second time, but it doesn't matter now. Now I just want to add another chapter to my book. If things are fair and on the up-and-up, then I'll get a close decision. If they're not, I won't. All things happen for a reason. I'd just like to take all these decisions out of the hands of the judges and put them into the hands of the Lord.

In spite of what the fans and everyone in the media says, I see Holyfield getting in trouble, and me taking him outta there. When I was getting ready to fight Tyson, I saw dark clouds on the horizon; I didn't think I was going to win that fight. But when I wake up on June 20, I see myself as the new heavyweight champion. My wife and kids are smiling, and the sky is bright. I don't see anything negative ahead. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

Bert Cooper. "Hide's definitely got power," said Nelson, who was kayoed in the second without landing a punch of note.

Although triumphs over Sekorski and Nelson will hardly make the top-ranked heavyweights shake in their boots, the approval of such experienced fighters cannot be totally dismissed. Add a two-round kayo over Eddie Gonzales, who went the distance with Larry Holmes, and Hide begins to look like a serious threat in the not-too-distant future.

It's likely Hide will meet more American imports of this standard because of the shortage of decent quality heavyweights in Europe. But that's okay; he's still at that learning stage where numbers mean more than names. Still, his development is being closely monitored in the manner befitting a fighter being groomed for the very top.

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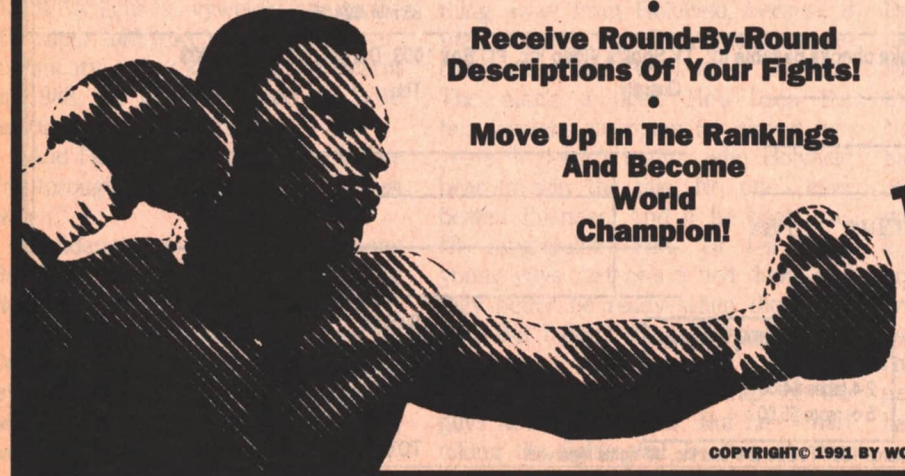

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get in there with him," said manager and promoter Hearn. "We're in the fast lane now, and he's going to be a very busy fighter. He needs the experience."

Holding the WBC International title qualifies Hide to fight for one-third of Evander Holyfield's undisputed crown. For the time being, Hide will have to wait in line.

But what about that big-money challenge to Frank Bruno, the British public's favorite, who has twice failed in heavyweight title challenges? Duff has offered the Hide camp a match with another of his heavyweights, unbeaten Henry Akinwande, who outpointed an inexperienced Hide in the Amateur Boxing Association finals, but Hide is keen to face Bruno, the man who inspired him to take up boxing.

"If a match was made with Frank Bruno tomorrow, I'd beat him tomorrow," states Hide. "He hits hard, but I can see those sort of punches coming from a mile away. If I were to fight him, I'd wager any money he wouldn't lay a glove on me. If that match is ever made, I know I'll win."

Confidence, as you can see, is one commodity in which Hide is not lacking. And ultimately, it might just prove to be the difference between he and the many Britons who have failed in world heavyweight title shots. ■

Glyn Leach is an editor for the British-based **Boxing Monthly.**

Haugen-Mancini

(Continued from page 39)

April, Mancini stepped off the stage and into the ring against former IBF lightweight champion Greg Haugen. The fight was appropriately titled "Tough Guys Don't Dance." Despite having engaged in one fight over seven years, Boom Boom was only a 2-1 underdog. (Over the same span, Haugen had fought 24 times.) Mancini's supporters believed that despite his inactivity, he could, for one night at least, return to the glory of his past.

It wasn't to be. Haugen, much sharper, worked behind a jab that rarely failed to reach its target, and a counter right that lumped and bloodied Mancini from the opening bell. The crowd at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center roared whenever Mancini connected, but his punches, encrusted by too many years of ring rust, lacked much of their previous wallop. The most damage Mancini could inflict was two cuts that were opened by unintentional butts.

The end came dramatically in round seven. Two minutes in, Mancini came off the ropes with a right that missed. Timing Mancini perfectly, Haugen countered with a tremendous right to the jaw. Mancini, previously floored only in an October 1981 loss to Alexis Arguello, helplessly crashed into the ropes and onto the canvas. He somehow arose before being counted out, but referee Mills Lane elected to end the bout—and Mancini's career.

"I hope no one is silly enough to ask whether this is it," Boom Boom said at the postfight press conference. "It is. I had no business being in there with a world-class fighter like him. I just wish I could've given a better account of myself tonight."

No apologies were necessary. Mancini, who made a $450,000 to Haugen's $550,000 for the fight, will be remembered by his fans not only for keeping the promise to his father of winning a world title, but for being a gentleman both in and out of the ring. ■

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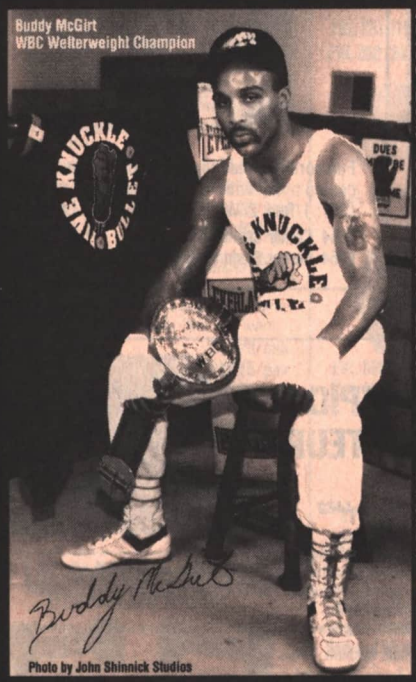

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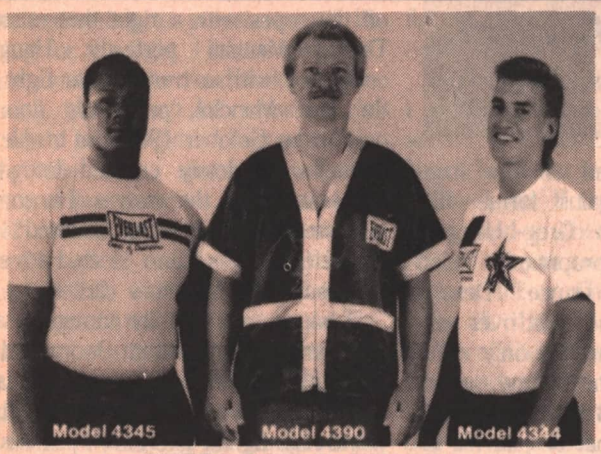

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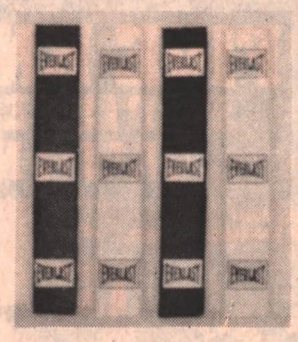

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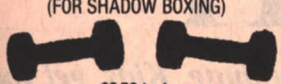

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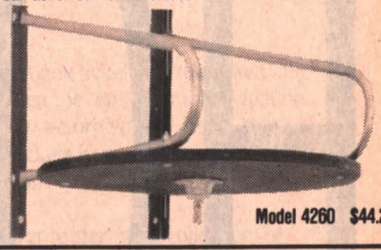

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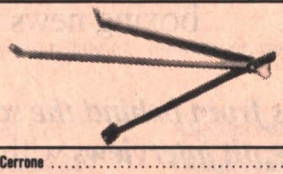

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Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

One of the hottest items in sports collecting today is the boxing ticket. It is the ticket, after all, that often best evokes a sense of what it was like when the tension and anticipation of the event was at its peak. It is the last thing you look at before you go *inside*. Many of the older tickets, and even the newer large, illustrated tickets from major casino fights, are hard to find, great to look at, and on everybody's want list. You want the ticket, even if you didn't go to the event.

Before you start rummaging through your desk drawer to start your collection, or run off to your local collectibles dealer to buy a few tickets, there are some things you should know.

First, some very basic terminology. Most tickets come perforated. A complete, untorn ticket is called a full ticket. The small seat check portion is called the stub, and the other, usually larger, part is the ticket minus the stub. Most fans will call either end of a torn ticket a stub. But the large end is usually much nicer and more collectible.

When you start describing items, it helps to know what you have, or want. Some tickets—and this is rare—do not have stubs. The most notable is the Sullivan-Corbett ticket, the grandaddy of the hobby, which sells for about $1,800.

Full tickets are most desirable, and the most costly. There are quite a few available. You should know that many of these are not tickets that could have been bought for the fight. These tickets have entered the hobby through finds at old ticket printers. Some just got thrown into bins and have since been rediscovered. They are still very nice, but there is no seat number on them. These are often called printer proof tickets. They are a bit less valuable than those that were purchased for the fight and never used. One can readily find Marciano-LaStarza, Marciano-Walcott II, and Louis-Mauriello tickets that were printer proofs. Some of these tickets can be found with holes punched in them, presumably to have avoided illegal use.

Tickets minus the stub and ticket stubs are some of the best buys in ticket collecting. Remember the tips above and then follow the maxim that prices on all sports collectibles vary due to four primary factors: Rarity, Condition, Subject, and Look. Of these, only Rarity requires a lot of research or an expert opinion. Condition refers to the presence or absence of stains, creases, or general wear. Subject refers to the importance of the fight or fighters involved. Look is a subjective assessment of the attractiveness of the piece.

Here are some full tickets and what they are selling for. Remember, rarity counts most:

Ali-Cooper $187
Louis-Mauriello $130
Louis-Conn II $145
Tunney-Dempsey stub $160
Maxim-Moore $90
Marciano-Walcott $95
Louis-Levinsky $125
Tate-Weaver $75
Holyfield-Dokes $27
Armstrong-Ambers $175
Patterson-Liston $10
Montgomery-Jack $90
Johnson-Jeffries $770
Jenkins-Armstrong $150
Ali-London $358
Dempsey-Gibbons $375
Larry Holmes-Marvis Frazier $400
Basilio-Aragon (minus the stub) $75
Louis-Schmeling II $550
Foreman-Cooney $95
Leonard-Hagler $125

Don't let all these big prices throw you; there are a lot of full tickets in the less-than-$100 range, and most stubs are only about 10-25 percent of the price of the full ticket. You won't get burned if you buy what you like at a price you can afford and at about market value. Just don't buy as an investment—only as a hobby. And remember, a few quality items will beat a room full of junk any day.

***If you have any questions, or have any boxing memorabilia to sell or trade, write to* Collectibles, The Ring, Box 768, Rockville Centre, NY 11571** ■

Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of March

WBA as of February

IBF as of April

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	-
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	2	6	5
Riddick Bowe (USA)	3	5	3
Lennox Lewis (GB)	4	3	4
George Foreman (USA)	5	4	1
Larry Holmes (USA)	6	8	8
Tony Tucker (USA)	7	12	10
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	8	7	7
Phil Jackson (USA)	9	11	-
Ray Mercer (USA)	10	-	9
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	2	2
Michael Moorer (USA)	11	9	6
Bert Cooper (USA)	12	10	11

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Orlin Norris (USA)	1	4	3
Johnny Nelson (GB)	2	3	2
Derek Angol (GB)	3	2	5
Akim Tafer (FRA)	4	5	10
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	5	7	6
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	6	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	7	10	-
Dennis Andries (GB)	8	8	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	9	1	1
Nate Miller (USA)	10	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	6	7
Bashiru Ali (NIG)	16	9	-
James Warring (USA)	-	-	C
Mike Hunter (USA)	-	12	4
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	-	-	8
Dmitrij Eliseev (USSR)	18	-	9

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	1	2	3
Frank Tate (USA)	2	1	1
David Vedder (USA)	3	-	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	4	3	2
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	5	4	10
Don Lalonde (CAN)	6	-	-
Randall Yonker (USA)	7	-	-
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	8	8	7
Crawford Ashley (GB)	9	10	-
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	10	-	-
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	C	-
Saul Montana (MEX)	-	5	4
Andrew Maynard (USA)	12	6	11
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	16	7	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	28	9	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	-	-	5
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	-	6
Booker Word (USA)	15	-	8
Henry Maske (GER)	11	11	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	1	3
Tony Thornton (USA)	2	2	1
Nigel Benn (GB)	3	4	12
James Cook (GB)	4	3	2
Dan Schommer (USA)	5	-	-
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	6	5	10
Lindell Holmes (USA)	7	8	5
Ron Essett (USA)	8	7	-
Otis Grant (CAN)	9	11	-
Henry Wharton (GB)	10	-	11
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Frank Liles (USA)	16	6	-
Randall Yonker (USA)	-	9	-
Merqui Sosa (USA)	13	10	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	C
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	11	-	4
John Jarvis (USA)	-	-	6
Tim Littles (USA)	18	12	7
Nelson Alves (GER)	23	-	8
Larry Musgrove (USA)	14	-	9

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	-	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	3	9
Lamar Parks (USA)	2	4	4
Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	5	2
Reggie Johnson (USA)	4	2	1
Steve Collins (USA)	5	1	3
Herol Graham (GB)	6	-	-
Willie Monroe (USA)	7	-	-
Roy Jones (USA)	8	-	8
Ron Collins (USA)	9	-	-
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	10	-	-
Chad Parker (USA)	-	6	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	14	7	-
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	-	8	-
Percy Harris (USA)	17	9	7
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	15	10	5
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	-	-	6
Dave Tiberi (USA)	22	-	10

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	1	1	-
Simon Brown (USA)	2	5	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	3	2	7
Wally Swift (GB)	4	-	3
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	-	12
Carl Daniels (USA)	6	-	4
Jorge Castro (ARG)	7	6	6
Jean-Claude Fontana (FRA)	8	12	11
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	9	7	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	10	4	1
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	C	-
Roy Jones (USA)	-	3	-
Kitoshi Kamiyama (JAP)	18	8	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	9	10
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	10	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Vincent Pettway (USA)	11	-	2
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	20	-	5
Quincy Taylor (USA)	-	-	8
Pat Lawlor (USA)	15	11	9

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	4	12
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	2	8	1
Santos Cardona (PR)	3	-	-
Glenwood Brown (USA)	4	3	10
Luis Gabriel Garcia (VEN)	5	2	2
Vernon Phillips (USA)	6	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	7	5	-
David Gonzalez (USA)	8	-	9
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	9	9	-
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	10	7	11
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	-	1	3
Yori Campas (MEX)	21	6	4
Anthony Jones (USA)	-	10	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Kevin Pompey (USA)	18	-	5
Angel Hernandez (SPA)	27	-	6
Buck Smith (USA)	12	12	7
Stephan Johnson (USA)	-	-	8

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	1	-	-
Hector Camacho (PR)	2	-	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	3	2	-
Pat Barrett (GB)	4	5	5
Terrence Ali (USA)	5	4	2
Rodney Moore (USA)	6	3	4
Loreto Garza (USA)	7	8	-
Greg Haugen (USA)	8	-	-

Harold Brazier (USA)	9	-	10
Carlos Gonzalez (MEX)	10	-	-
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	1	-
Morris East (PHIL)	28	6	-
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	19	7	-
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	24	9	-
Guillermo Mosquera (COL)	-	10	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	-	-	C
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	-	-	1
Charles Murray (USA)	13	-	3
Roger Mayweather (USA)	15	-	6
Oba Carr (USA)	22	11	7
Andy Holligan (GB)	12	-	8
Ike Quartey (GHA)	-	-	9

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	C	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	1	2	5
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	10	-
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	3	6	9
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	4	1	-
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	-	1
Wilfredo Rocha (COL)	6	-	12
Jorge Paez (MEX)	7	5	4
Joey Gamache (USA)	8	3	-
Frankie Mitchell (USA)	9	-	8
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	10	-	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	4	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	7	-
Poli Diaz (SPA)	15	8	-
Omar Flores (MEX)	21	9	-
Tracy Spann (USA)	14	11	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	18	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	23	-	6
Shane Knox (AUSTRL)	12	-	7
Jimmy Paul (USA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	1	6	7
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	2	1	-
Regilio Tuur (HOL)	3	4	-
Eugene Speed (USA)	4	5	12
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	5	-	-
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	6	-	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	7	-	2
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	8	-	-
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	9	-	-
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	10	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	16	2	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	18	3	-
Harold Warren (USA)	22	7	-
Juan Negron (PR)	15	8	-
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	24	9	11
Daniel Londas (FRA)	-	10	-
John-John Molina (PR)	-	-	C
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	1
Bernard Taylor (USA)	-	-	3
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	13	-	4
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	-	5
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	-	6
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	8
Calvin Grove (USA)	-	-	9
Orlando Soto (PAN)	-	-	10

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	1	3
Ever Beleno (COL)	2	8	8
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	3	-	-
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	4	-	-
James Leija (USA)	5	11	4
Jose Ramos (DR)	6	-	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	7	4	7
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	8	6	-
Miguel Francia (ARG)	9	-	-
Steve Cruz (USA)	10	-	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	13	2	2
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	21	3	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	5	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	7	-
Colin McMillan (GB)	12	9	10
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	-	10	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	1
Louie Espinoza (USA)	17	-	5
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	6
Troy Dorsey (USA)	11	-	9

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	1	1
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	-	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	3	-	2
Freddy Cruz (DR)	4	2	-
Pedro Decima (ARG)	5	-	5
Luis Mendoza (COL)	6	4	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	7	-	-
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	8	5	-
Juan Bautista Rodriguez (COL)	9	-	-
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	10	8	3
Raul Perez (MEX)	-	C	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	3	6
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	21	6	-
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	7	7
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	27	9	-
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	-	10	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	4
Sakda Sawpungdee (THAI)	-	-	8
Nurhuda (INDO)	-	-	9
Rudy Zavala (USA)	11	11	10

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	-	-
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	-	6
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	-	-
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	3	3	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	4	-	10
Junior Jones (USA)	5	2	2
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	6	-	1
Eliecer Julio (COL)	7	1	5
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	8	4	-
Clarence Adams (USA)	9	8	8
Javier Leon (MEX)	10	9	4
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	C	-
Yasuey Yakushiji (JAP)	12	5	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	-	6	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	-	7	-
Harold Mestre (COL)	-	10	9
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	3
Francisco Arroyo (PAN)	-	-	7

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	1	-	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	2	2	-
Luis Bueno (MEX)	3	-	3
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	4	1	11
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	5	9	-
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	6	12	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	7	6	-
Armando Salazar (MEX)	8	-	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	9	4	9
Noel Cogollo (COL)	10	-	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	24	3	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	-	5	-
Joel Luna (MEX)	11	7	1
Jing Gil Byun (KOR)	12	8	-
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	17	10	7
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Luiz Ferreira (BRA)	13	-	2
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	22	-	5
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	-	-	6
Ole Kiatwonway (USA)	-	-	8
Dan Nietes (PHIL)	-	-	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	C	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	-	2
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	-	-
Yuri Arbachakov (USSR)	3	4	7
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	4	6	-
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	5	10	-
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	6	-	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	7	12	5
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	8	-	-
Cuachtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	-	-
Antonio Perez (MEX)	10	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL)	15	1	8
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	-	2	1
David Griman (VEN)	-	3	-
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	-	5	10
Julio Gudino (PAN)	-	7	-
Scotty Olson (USA)	11	8	3
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	-	9	-
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Pichit Sitbangphachan (THAI)	24	-	4
Rafael Caban (PR)	-	-	6
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	9

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	9	5
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	2	4	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	3	-	3
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	8	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	5	-	-
Javier Varguez (MEX)	6	-	-
Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI)	7	-	-
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	8	5	-
Jesus Chong (MEX)	9	-	-
Shiro Yahiro (Japan)	10	-	-
Hiroka Ioka (JAP)	-	C	-
Myung Woo Yuh (JAP)	-	1	-
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	16	2	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	13	3	6
Robinson Cuestas (PAN)	15	6	1
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	18	7	-
Noel Tunacao (PHIL)	-	10	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	-	-	2
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	4
Raul Rios (MEX)	14	-	7
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	-	-	8
Salvador Fanni (ITA)	-	-	9
Jacob Matala (SA)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	1	2	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	2	5	8
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	7	1
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	4	1	-
Danny Nunez (DR)	5	9	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	6	3	3
Singprasert Kittikasem (THAI)	7	-	-
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	8	-	-
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	9	-	2
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	10	6	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	13	4	-
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	23	8	-
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	17	10	9
Far-Lan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	24	-	4
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	5
Said Iskandar (INDO)	22	-	6
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	-	-	7
Husni Ray (INDO)	26	-	10

RING CLASSIC

TEX COBB: WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, TEX GETS GOING

From The Ring, January 1982

By Lewis Freedman

By now you've probably heard all the Texas and Texan jokes you ever care to hear. How it's a place with more cows and less milk, more rivers and less water, and a place where you can look farther and see less than any place on earth. And how its inhabitants, without the bull, would be 1'3" midgets wearing half-gallon hats. Well, around boxing's inner circles there is now a new joke. Or several of them. The joke is not the teller, Randall "Tex" Cobb, but the many he spews out, with all the frequency of a Waterpik out of control. Although Cobb's are more directed at targets.

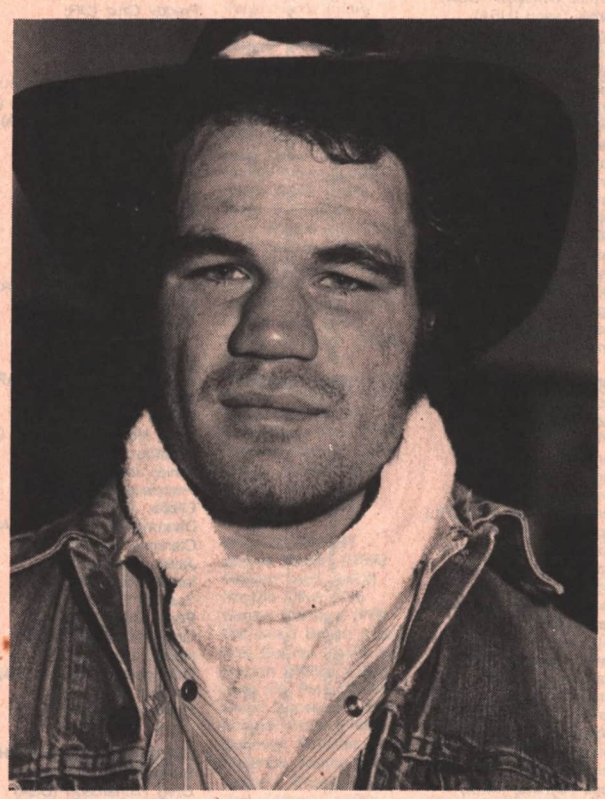
When he is not in training for a fight and hidden away in the wilds of Eagleville, Pennsylvania, in the barrack-like atmosphere of the Montgomery County Boys Club, 20 miles outside Philadelphia, you can find heavyweight "Tex" Cobb in a booth at Dr. Watson's Pub in the center of the city. And no, the glass in front of him doesn't contain ginger ale.

The bar is one of the varied type of establishments where Cobb, who recently broke his arm in a barroom battle, used to make a living. For a while he was a doorman, checking IDs to keep underage patrons out.

"Not a single 18-year-old girl got in without her giving me her phone number," said Cobb, a wide grin spreading beneath the cowboy hat he seems to wear at all times except in the ring. Sometimes he tucks rows of toothpicks in the hat's band so he can reach up, pluck one, and stick it between his teeth without pausing in his speech.

When he is not absorbing punches to his Rock of Gibraltar chin, Cobb's mouth is usually open. He is not exactly of the "aw shucks, ma'am" breed of cowboys, eyes cast downward, hat in hand, boots scuffling the floor. No, sir, this ain't no John Wayne/Rooster Cogburn character, although he's got true grit. Cobb is more like an X-rated Henny Youngman.

Once, when asked why he fights, Cobb said, "I like to beat up oppressed minorities. It's a wonderful selling point that I seem to be a racist pig." Before his November 10-round decision over Bernardo Mercardo in Pittsburgh, Cobb, 19-2, was asked how he spent each day in the isolation of the Boys Club, between his early-morning runs and late-afternoon sparring.



Tex Cobb's cowboy hat is black. He's green in the ring. And his humor is off-color. The twice-beaten heavyweight is rated ninth in the world.

"Oh, I go into town and drink and f___ and take drugs," he replied, matter of factly. Frankly, Cobb would not give a doggone—no, make that a damn—if some naive observer went away believing him; although the truth is, as he later explained, "If I was any more serious, they'd make me a national disease."

Cobb was born in Bridge City, Texas, 26 years ago and raised in Abilene, giving him a country boy flavor with the down-home wit of broadcaster Don Meredith. They call him Tex, but Abilene doesn't have cattle roaming Main Street. Of course, it doesn't have bumper-to-bumper traffic on the expressway for hours, either. Cobb calls it a city with two elevators.

Although his birthplace is the reason for his nickname, it was something given to him only after he moved to Philadelphia in the late-'70s, by George Benton, who had taken over his tutoring.

"Georgie Benton just can't remember white boys' names," said Cobb, easily adding yet another pelt to his list of insultees.

As one of the few white heavyweights to make an impact in the ratings lately, Cobb seems well aware of the financial reward that being a White Hope can bring him.

"I just had the good sense to be born white," he says. "They need some white boy's ass to give to [WBA champion Mike] Weaver." In many ways, Cobb, at 6'3" and 225 pounds, or so, is a gentle giant. He's affable and fun to talk to. But with 17 knockouts on his record, and a checkered history that implies a certain lack of interest in the preservation of his body, he can also seem pretty menacing. Instead of starting his career the normal way—and Tex does nothing the normal way—as an amateur boxer, Cobb began his career by throwing people out of bars, building buildings, playing football with Eagles' halfback Wilbert Montgomery at Abilene Christian, and kickboxing. Hardly the classic beginning for a world-rated fighter.

"I was a professional kickboxer for a while," said

THE RING RATINGS, *January 1982*

(As of December 1, 1981)
***WBA Champion; **WBC Champion**

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Larry Holmes****, Easton, PA
1. **Mike Weaver***, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Gerry Cooney**, Huntington, NY
3. **Michael Dokes**, Akron, OH
4. **Greg Page**, Louisville, KY
5. **Gerrie Coetzee**, South Africa
6. **Leon Spinks**, St. Louis, MO
7. **Trevor Berbick**, Halifax, Canada
8. **James (Quick) Tillis**, Chicago, IL
9. **Randall (Tex) Cobb**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Renaldo Snipes**, Yonkers, NY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Matthew Saad Muhammad****, Philadelphia, PA
1. **Michael Spinks***, St. Louis, MO
2. **Eddie Mustafa Muhammad**, Brooklyn, NY
3. **Dwight Braxton**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Jerry Martin**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **James Scott**, Rahway, NJ
6. **Carlos DeLeon**, Puerto Rico
7. **Marvin Camel**, Missoula, MT
8. **Murray Sutherland**, Bay City, MI
9. **Marvin Johnson**, Indianapolis, IN
10. **Jerry Celestine**, New Orleans, LA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Marvin Hagler**, Brockton, MA
1. **Dwight Davison**, Detroit, MI
2. **Mustafa Hamsho**, Syria
3. **Wilford Scypion**, New York, NY
4. **Frank Fletcher**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Tony Sibson**, England
6. **Fulgencio Obelmejias**, Venezuela
7. **Curtis Parker**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Ray Seales**, Tacoma, WA
9. **Robbie Epps**, Clovis, NM
10. **Vinnie Curto**, Boston, MA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ray Leonard**, Palmer Park, MD
1. **Wilfred Benitez****, Puerto Rico
2. **Ayub Kalule**, Uganda
3. **Maurice Hope**, England
4. **Tony Ayala Jr.**, San Antonio, TX
5. **Carlos Herrera**, Argentina
6. **Charlie Weir**, South Africa
7. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
8. **Walter Gomez**, Argentina
9. **Gary Guiden**, Indianapolis, IN
10. **Tadashi Mihara***, Japan

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ray Leonard**, Palmer Park, MD
1. **Thomas Hearns**, Detroit, MI
2. **Roger Stafford**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Pipino Cuevas**, Mexico
4. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
5. **Randy Shields**, N. Hollywood, CA
6. **Bruce Finch**, Milwaukee, WI
7. **Milton McCrory**, Detroit, MI
8. **Adolfo Viruet**, Hoboken, NJ
9. **Colin Jones**, Wales
10. **Pete Ranzany**, Sacramento, CA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Aaron Pryor****, Cincinnati, OH
1. **Saoul Mamby***, New York, NY
2. **Jo Kimpuani**, France
3. **Dujuan Johnson**, Detroit, MI
4. **Miguel Montilla**, Dominican Republic
5. **Monroe Brooks**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Johnny Bumphus**, Nashville, TN
7. **Lennox Blackmoore**, Guyana
8. **Willie Rodriguez**, Allentown, PA
9. **Leroy Haley**, Las Vegas, NV
10. **Steve Hearon**, Houston, TX

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Alexis Arguello****, Nicaragua
1. **Aaron Pryor**, Cincinnati, OH
2. **Andrew Ganigan**, Honolulu, HI
3. **Hilmer Kenty**, Detroit, MI
4. **Claude Noel***, Trinidad
5. **Howard Davis Jr.**, Glen Cove, NY
6. **Sean O'Grady**, Oklahoma City, OK
7. **Rodolfo (Gato) Gonzalez**, Mexico
8. **Roberto Elizondo**, Corpus Christi, TX
9. **Gonzalo Montellano**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Ray Mancini**, Youngstown, OH

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Samuel Serrano***, Puerto Rico
1. **Rolando Navarette****, Honolulu, HI
2. **Cornelius Boza-Edwards**, England
3. **Rafael (Bazooka) Limon**, Mexico
4. **Edwin Rosario**, Puerto Rico
5. **Bobby Chacon**, Pacoima, CA
6. **Yasutsune Uehara**, Japan
7. **Idelfonso Bethelmy**, Venezuela
8. **Johnny Sato**, Stockton, CA
9. **John Verderosa**, Staten Island, NY
10. **Carlos Pinango**, Venezuela

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Salvador Sanchez****, Mexico
1. **Eusebio Pedroza***, Panama
2. **Wilfredo Gomez**, Puerto Rico
3. **Juan LaPorte**, New York, NY
4. **Rocky Lockridge**, Paterson, NJ
5. **Edwin Rosario**, Puerto Rico
6. **Ruben Castillo**, Bakersfield, CA
7. **Patrick Ford**, Guyana
8. **Mario Miranda**, Colombia
9. **Pat Cowdell**, England
10. **Roberto Rubaldino**, Mexico

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Wilfredo Gomez****, Puerto Rico
1. **Sergio Palma***, Argentina
2. **Mike Ayala**, New York, NY
3. **Leo Cruz**, Dominican Republic
4. **Ricardo Cardona**, Colombia
5. **Jaime Garza**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Juan (Kid) Meza**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Lupe Pintor**, Mexico
8. **Nicky Perez**, Tucson, AZ
9. **Soon Hyun Chung**, Korea
10. **Carmelo Negron**, New York, NY

BANTAMWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Jeff Chandler***, Philadelphia, PA
1. **Lupe Pintor****, Mexico
2. **Julian Solis**, Puerto Rico
3. **Chul Ho Kim**, Korea
4. **Albert Davila**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Oscar Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Eijiro Murata**, Japan
7. **Johnny Carter**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Jose R. Narvaez**, Argentina
9. **Rafael Orono**, Venezuela
10. **Hurricane Teru**, Japan

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Antonio Avelar****, Mexico
1. **Hilario Zapata**, Panama
2. **Hwan Jin Kim**, Korea
3. **Betulio Gonzalez**, Venezuela
4. **Juan Herrera**, Mexico
5. **Gustavo Ballas**, Argentina
6. **Candido Tellez**, Mexico
7. **Luis Ibarra**, Mexico
8. **Santos Laciar**, Argentina
9. **Willie Jensen**, Las Vegas, NV
10. **German Torres**, Mexico

Among Cobb's biggest wins was a November 1981 decision over powerpuncher Bernardo Mercado. Big hitters don't have much of an effect on Tex.

Cobb. "I use the term 'professional' very loosely. I think I made $100 once."

Before he fights, Cobb usually doesn't shave for days, giving himself the hardened appearance of an inner city bum. And he has one of those faces that in two poses, laughter or intense concentration, squints his eyes nearly shut, giving him a mildly maniacal look, appropriate to this man who throws punches and punchlines with the same equal abandon.

One ringside observer, studying Cobb's features just before he went out to lose a disputed 10-round decision to Ken Norton, recognized the heavyweight as the actor-fighter who kills hero John Voight in the movie *The Champ*.

"You know," the man said, "I didn't even know who he was, but I remember thinking *that's one mean-looking dude.*

Indeed, Cobb does all he can to foster such an image. Last June, before he was scheduled to fight fellow Philadelphian Marvin Stinson—a fight which never came off because Cobb hurt his back—Cobb was expounding on the philosophy of pummeling someone he might ordinarily prefer to down a few beers with.

"It never bothers me to hit people I like," said Cobb, as his smile disappeared and his eyes became slits.

"He practices on me," chimed in his girlfriend, Priscilla Lowe, seated next to him.

If he really didn't like a guy, said Cobb, he might mangle him with a crowbar, probably in a back alley. Subtlety is not one of this strongman's strong points.

In fact, Cobb would make a perfect host for *Saturday Night Live,* although his monologue would run the risk of having more expletives deleted than the Watergate tapes.

Once asked if money would stand in the way of a fight between he and Gerry Cooney, Cobb replied, "Hell, I'd fight him for 25 cents and a blow job."

At a prefight luncheon in Pittsburgh, he enraged Renaldo Snipes, who was about to be stopped by Larry Holmes in a WBC title fight, by referring to Snipes—and the other heavyweights at the same table—as "the baddest bunch of Niggers I know of."

There's no telling what kind of mood Snipes was in, but it was obvious he did not know Cobb. Cobb talks like that all the time. Throwaway lines, that's all they are. He's got a childlike attitude of "Gee, nobody could really take me seriously, could they?" But with his build, his ring record, and his "one mean dude" look, he can also afford to have the attitude of "And if they do, so what?"

It is only in the ring that Cobb's thick, wavy hair is on public view. The rest of the time he's got it covered with a black cowboy hat. And even though he played the villain in *The Champ*, it wasn't because he's a bad guy.

"I just can't keep a white hat clean," he said. "I just like a black hat. In Texas, it's a real common thing."

One would think Cobb would make a fine intimidator, but somehow the message of how precious the hat is hasn't penetrated the heads of many of the locals who frequent the same bars as he does.

"In Texas, if you touch a guy's hat," said Cobb, "he'll try to break your legs. If someone does that, or steps on his boots and doesn't apologize real quick, it's an open invitation to break his head.

"[Philadelphians] call me 'Cowboy' and do a few other things typical of youngsters in their 20s or 30s. They're not mature enough to realize their danger. It gets difficult to bring manners to these people."

If they did the same thing in Texas?

"They wouldn't live."

His career began in Texas, and sometimes he takes fights there against nobodies for the sake of his co-manager, Paul Clinite, the man who sent him to Philadelphia.

One time Cobb didn't even know who he was going to fight.

"It doesn't make any difference to me," he said. "Some washwoman . . . Some SOB in shorts and gloves."

Cobb readily acknowledges that his brawling, take-all-they-can-dish-out-and-give-it-back-in-kind type of fighting isn't stylish, although it *is* crowd-pleasing.

Still, he feels he has a lot to learn about the sweet science. He will often say life is just a big game, and he doesn't take boxing seriously. But he wants to win. And, more importantly, he wants to be the heavyweight champion.

When he won a decision over Mercado, after having lost to Norton and Michael Dokes, words tumbled out of Cobb's mouth at a rate approximately the same as water over Niagara Falls.

Completely straight-faced, he said the reason Mercado was able to come back after being nearly knocked out was "amphetamines." Writers didn't know whether to laugh or go blind. They laughed.

"I asked what they gave Mercado, and if they had any left."

But within seconds Cobb became compassionate, a different side, unseen by many. He spoke of the whispered prefight "book" on Mercado: that he had no heart, that he had no stomach for infighting, and that he couldn't come back if things didn't go his way.

"On other occasions, he has not shown an attitude of death before dishonor," said Cobb. "Tonight, that sucker was willing to die, and it damn near killed me."

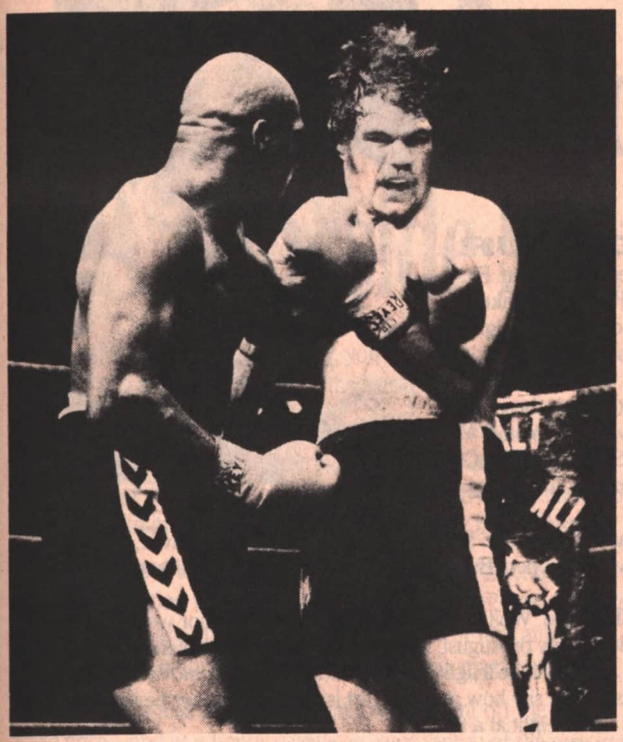
Cobb's attributes are his tongue, his size, his skin pigmentation, the toughness of his chin, and the toughness of his attitude. He has stamina, but after three straight 10-round decisions with quality fighters, his punch might be suspect.

Experience is what Cobb doesn't have. Without an amateur career, he's like someone going right into an area of higher learning without benefit of any previous education.

"He's got time," said co-manager Joe Gramby. "He is not at his peak yet."

"He's learning and improving every fight," said trainer Benton.

But the winner over Mercado didn't gush about his greatness.



Cobb flaunted his chin when he outpointed Earnie Shavers in August 1980. It was a sloppy and uneven brawl, with Cobb proving to have more stamina.

"I wasn't pleased at all with my performance," Cobb said. "I made a lot of mistakes."

Although Cobb's sense of humor is his most evident trait, he seems also to have a realistic view of himself.

"I have the ability to absorb punishment," he said. "I have the ability to hit hard. I have good reflex action. I'm not uncoordinated. I don't have trouble moving."

But can he be champion?

"I train my ass off," he said. But also, after a near-$100,000 payday for fighting Norton, he said, "I'm going to get drunk for a month. Somebody gives me a pocketful of money, and I won't come back until I've spent it."

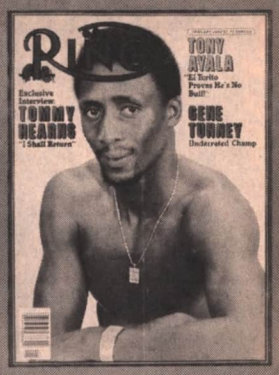
How true that is we cannot tell—it might be more of Cobb's tongue-in-cheek. But whose tongue in whose cheek we'll never know.

What is known about Cobb, however, is that he is free-wheeling, and he isn't going to change *that.*

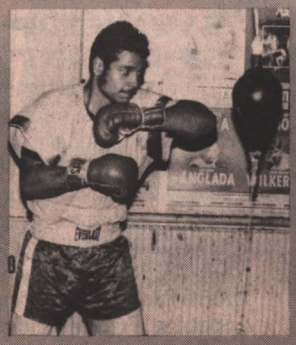
Many would say Cobb is cultivating an image. He would undoubtedly introduce them to his overhand right if he heard them. He is probably one of the least self-conscious people in the world. The words come naturally. He doesn't give a damn about people like Renaldo Snipes, who say he should only talk with his fists, or that he should scowl more than Sonny Liston.

"I'm not going to fight the rest of my life," said Cobb. "But I sure am going to laugh the rest of my life. I guarantee you, I will have a good time the rest of my life." He probably will. ■

THE RING, January 1982

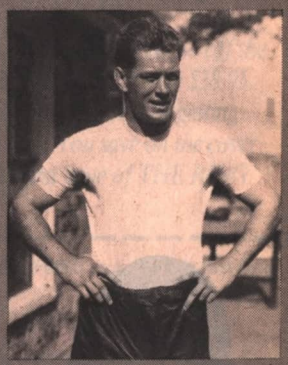


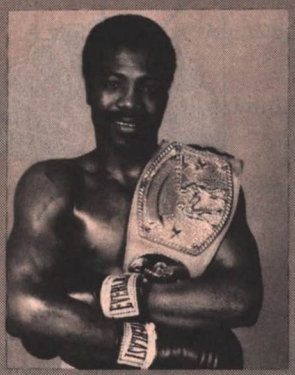
The Cover: Former welterweight champion Tommy Hearns proclaims "I shall return." Having been kayoed by archrival Sugar Ray Leonard in September 1981, the "Hit Man" rebounded with a decision win over Ernie Singletary. But it's a second bout with Sugar Ray that he craves.



It's No Bull: Steve Marantz profiles teenage junior middleweight sensation Tony Ayala Jr., who has already cracked his division's top five. "El Torito" is the younger brother of world-rated featherweight Mike Ayala. He seems destined for a world title.

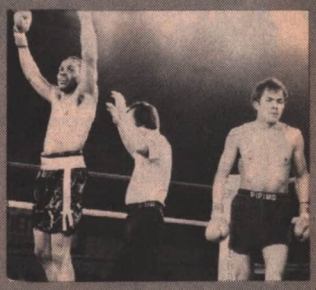
Tons On Tunney: In a 17-page feature, Ed Fitzgerald profiles former heavyweight champion Gene Tunney. Handsome, educated, and erudite, the New Yorker was atypical of the fight fraternity. But shortly before his death, he proudly stated, "I am a professional prize fighter, and I am very proud of it."





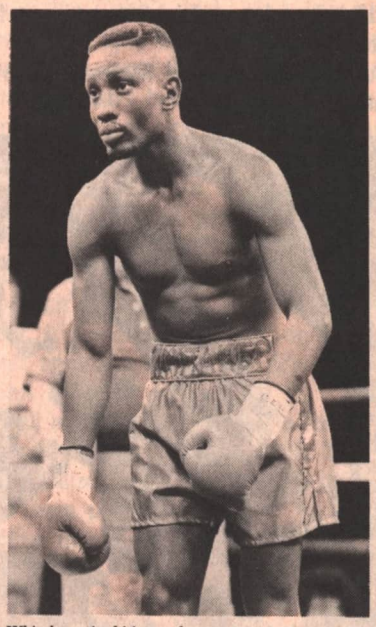
The Hawk Soars: *The Ring's* monthly color pinup features WBA junior welterweight champion Aaron Pryor, who is 27-0 and among the best young champions in boxing. In August 1980, Pryor won the title by rising from the canvas to kayo the legendary Antonio Cervantes. "The Hawk" is hot—and getting hotter.

Fighter Of The Month: Welterweight Roger Stafford is honored for his November 1981 upset victory over former WBA welterweight champion Pipino Cuevas. Most insiders thought Cuevas would knock out Stafford, but the Philadelphian boxed masterfully and cruised to a points win.



Looking Ahead

By Jeff Ryan



Whitaker: Ambitious plans

SWEET-PEA AND SPLIT-TITLE SOUP

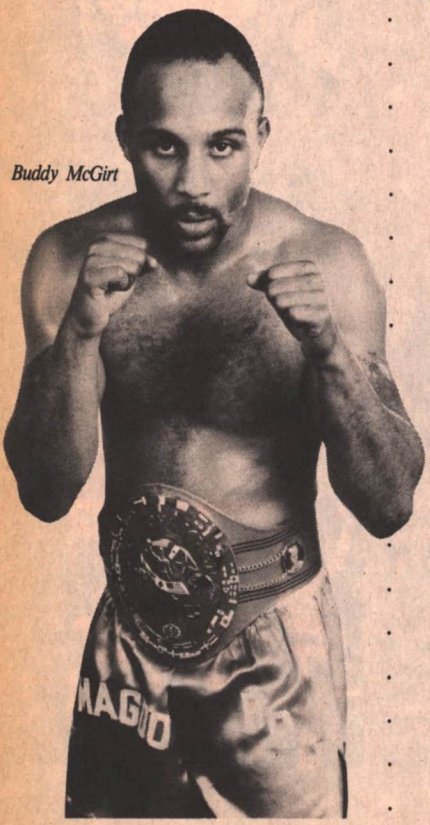
Time to clear up rumors and end confusion. First of all, contrary to some reports, Pernell Whitaker does not want to hold on to any of his lightweight crowns in the event that he has second thoughts about life at junior welterweight. "Sweet Pea" has abdicated his thrones. As we went to press, these were the scheduled matchups for the vacant crowns:

WBA: Joey Gamache vs. Chil Sung Chun; WBC: Jorge Paez vs. Miguel Angel Gonzalez; IBF: Tracy Spann vs. Freddie Pendleton

Goose bumps? No? Well, at least it gets better. Sort of. Whitaker-Julio Cesar Chavez, one of boxing's best matchups, probably *will* happen. But as those Cleveland Indians fans say every October, wait 'til next year.

According to co-manager Shelly Finkel, Whitaker will first challenge IBF junior welterweight king Rafael Pineda on HBO in July or August, "then have two or three defenses to really work himself into that weight. After that, he'll fight Chavez, and he wants to move up and fight Buddy McGirt, too. He hears people say how great McGirt is, but Pernell says he knows how to beat him. But that's later. One weight at a time."

And, for a public starved for superfights, one wait at a time.



Buddy McGirt

THE NATIONAL BOXING COMPANY

Surprise, surprise. While NBC isn't ready to uproot its schedule and rekindle the *Gillette Friday Night Fights*, boxing *will* return to the network's airwaves this year.

Following a telecast in December 1990, NBC boxing coordinator Kevin Monaghan was convinced that he wouldn't have any boxing to coordinate ever again. The main reason NBC hung up the gloves was that the network that likes to call itself "the innovative leader in sports television" came up with an idea that qualified, on today's network TV sports landscape, as truly innovative: It wanted to stop losing money.

"It's at the stage where no matter what we do—the NBA, the NFL—we're not going to get involved unless we make money," Monaghan told *The Ring*.

What has NBC eyeing boxing again is the fact that two promoters, Cedric Kushner and the Great Western Forum's John Jackson, are interested in structuring deals that would allow NBC to make a profit, possibly by becoming a joint promoter. Fighters have not yet been selected, but one idea that intrigues Monaghan is having the winners from the first two dates, September 26 and October 3, meet on the third show, scheduled for January 30, 1993.

With boxing's lesser-known competitors having few outlets on which to showcase their skills, and viewers enjoying less free-TV boxing than ever before, NBC's return to action is a boost for the sport as a whole.

And a Peacock feather in the cap of Monaghan, who looks pretty coordinated once again.

LISTEN UP

WBC welterweight king **Buddy McGirt** promises to be just as busy *on* the throne as when he was clawing his way toward it. He's scheduled to defend against **Patrizio Oliva** in June and mandatory contender **Genaro Leon** in August. Promoter **Butch Lewis** hopes to have his IBF welter champ, **Maurice Blocker**, face challenger **Luis Garcia** on that same August card, then make a Blocker-McGirt unification match for the fall. ■

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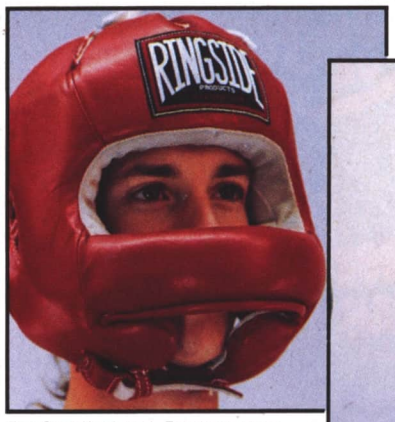

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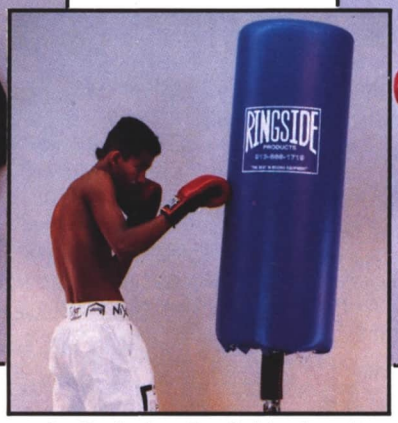

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